THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • NOVEMBER 16, 2020 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 32 • LATE CITY EDITION

The New Indian Express Wishes its readers a

Our offices and press will remain closed today and there will be no issue of the paper on Tuesday

HAMILTON EQUALS F1 LEGEND SCHUMACHER'S WORLD MARK

Briton enters league of all-time greats across sports with seventh World Championship win in Turkish Grand Prix

CHILDHOOD DREAM COMES TRUE

Lewis Hamilton, who had earlier this year overtaken Michael Schumacher's world record of most individual races won, had claimed his first world title in 2008. "We dreamed of this when I was young. I remember watching Michael win those World Championships... Seven is unimaginable," said the Mercedes driver. The 35-year-old has won 10 of 14 races this season

INCREDIBLE JOURNEY OF MILESTONE MAN

- Hamilton also holds the world records for most wins (94), most pole positions (97) and most podium finishes (163)
- Hamilton came home over half-a-minute clear of Racing Point's Sergio Perez and sealed the World Championship with three races still to be held in a season cut short by the Covid-19 pandemic | P11

4

THIS IS HAMILTON'S FOURTH CONSECUTIVE WORLD TITLE WIN

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

RCEP is a deal!

The world's biggest free trade deal is finally here. Fifteen countries on Sunday signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), with China expected to be the Big Daddy. A look:

SHARE IN GLOBAL GDP OF THE **FIFTEEN** SIGNATORIES OF RCEP

210 cr

People covered by the deal

DOOR STILL OPEN FOR NEW DELHI

India can join RCEP anytime in future after submitting a formal request

India can also participate in RCEP meetings as an observer

India can also take part in economic cooperation activities undertaken by the signatory states, on terms and conditions to be jointly decided by RCEP

Chinese Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan holds up the RCEP agreement | AFP

WIN FOR CHINA Being China's brainchild, RCEP is seen as its tool to draft the rules of trade in the region

WHAT NEXT All signatories need to ratify the deal within two years for it to come into force

COMMON RULES, LOWER TARIFFS

The RCEP is a trade pact first proposed in 2012 and includes China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, and 10 ASEAN economies - Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia

The agreement is expected to lower or eliminate a range of tariffs within 20 years of it taking effect

It will also lead to the creation of common rules of origin. This will help companies save cost and time by allowing them to export a product anywhere within the bloc without meeting separate requirements for each country

INDIAN PULLOUT

India pulled out of the RCEP talks last year over concerns that tariff reductions will lead to dumping of Chinese goods in the domestic market. It would also worsen India's trade deficit

According to the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, India has trade deficits with 11 of the 15 RCEP signatories

While RCEP would open up India's market to Chinese goods, India got no assurances that its companies would get meaningful access to Chinese markets

Target bypolls? Govt OKs irrigation project

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AHEAD of the bypolls to Maski and Basavakalyan Assembly segments, and Belagavi Lok Sabha constituency, the State Government has given administrative approval for the Rs 52.54 crore Maski irrigation project in Raichur district, and has also set up the Maratha Development Authority with a Rs 50 crore grant. Belagavi and Basavakalyan in Bidar district have substantial Maratha population.

The Government Order (dated Nov 13) stated that the administrative approval has been given for the project for remodelling of left bank, right bank canals and other works. The canals under the Maski irrigation project that supply water to 7,416 acres were built in 2006 and modernisation works are required to avoid wastage of water.

The Karnataka Neeravari Nigam, responsible for the operation and maintenance of the dam, had prepared a detailed project report in 2019 and sought the government approval to take up the works.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said that the Maratha Development Authority will help in the social, economic, academic and religious development of Marathas in the state.

Congress sources said they are not against the government taking initiatives to help people, but the timing of such decisions made it clear that it is done keeping the by-polls in mind. But, BJP general secretary N Ravi Kumar denied that the government decisions had anything to do with the bypolls.

The bypoll in Maski is necessitated as Congress MLA Prathap Gowda Patil joined BJP with other rebels and in Basavakalyan, it is because of the demise of Congress MLA B Narayan Rao. The Belagavi LS seat fell vacant after the death of BJP MP and Union Minister Suresh Angadi.

BR Shetty not allowed to board flight from KIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IMMIGRATION officials at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) stopped NMC Health founder BR Shetty from flying to Abu Dhabi on board an Etihad flight scheduled to depart at 2.45 am on Saturday.

A source privy to the incident and its background confirmed that the businessman was "not allowed" to board the flight after a Central agency alerted the immigration officials about his departure, and that "he was not detained, but only asked not to board the flight".

The source said it is likely that Shetty figured in alerts issued to the immigration officials here for them to stop the entrepreneur from boarding the flight.

Shetty's current whereabouts, however, have not been disclosed, and immigration officials were not available to separately confirm this.

Shetty reportedly owes $250 million to Bank of Baroda and varying amounts to other banks. P5

EXPRESS READ

GP member sets pregnant wife ablaze

Mysuru: A gram panchayat (GP) member allegedly killed his pregnant wife by pouring kerosene over her and setting her ablaze on Saturday. Shanthamma, was the wife of Ramesh, a member of Doddamulagodu Gram Panchayat in Mysuru district. The victim's father alleged that Ramesh was harassing her to get Rs5 lakh from her parents as he wanted to contest the upcoming GP election. | P5

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex YOUR LIFE COACH

32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) & 4 of CITY EXPRESS

Nitish to begin seventh term as Bihar CM today

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @Patna

A day after being unanimously elected leader of the Bihar NDA, JD(U) president Nitish Kumar will on Monday be sworn-in as the state's chief minister for his seventh term. The swearing-in ceremony will begin at 4.30 pm.

On Sunday, Nitish staked his claim to form the new government after handing the letter of support of 126 lawmakers to Governor Phagu Chauhan. The NDA meeting was held in the presence of BJP's central observer and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Nitish later said: "I did not want to be the CM, but only after the request and instructions of BJP leaders, I accepted the post."

Within BJP, Katihar MLA Tar Kishor Prasad was elected its legislature party leader, which suggested he could be made the deputy CM. Perhaps to acknowledge the role of women as silent voters in the NDA victory, the BJP elected Bettiah MLA Renu Devi as deputy leader of the legislature party.

Team Nitish could have 15 representatives from the BJP, 12 JD(U) and two each from the Hindustani Awam Morcha and the Vikassheel Insaan Party. P8

SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE DIES AT 85

The iconic Bengali actor strode Bengali cinema like a colossus and took it to the world. The thespian's collaboration with Ray led to 14 cinematic gems, including 'Apur Sansar' and 'Charulata' — among the more than 300 films he acted in his more than six-decade career. | P7

MYSURU URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
e-Auction of
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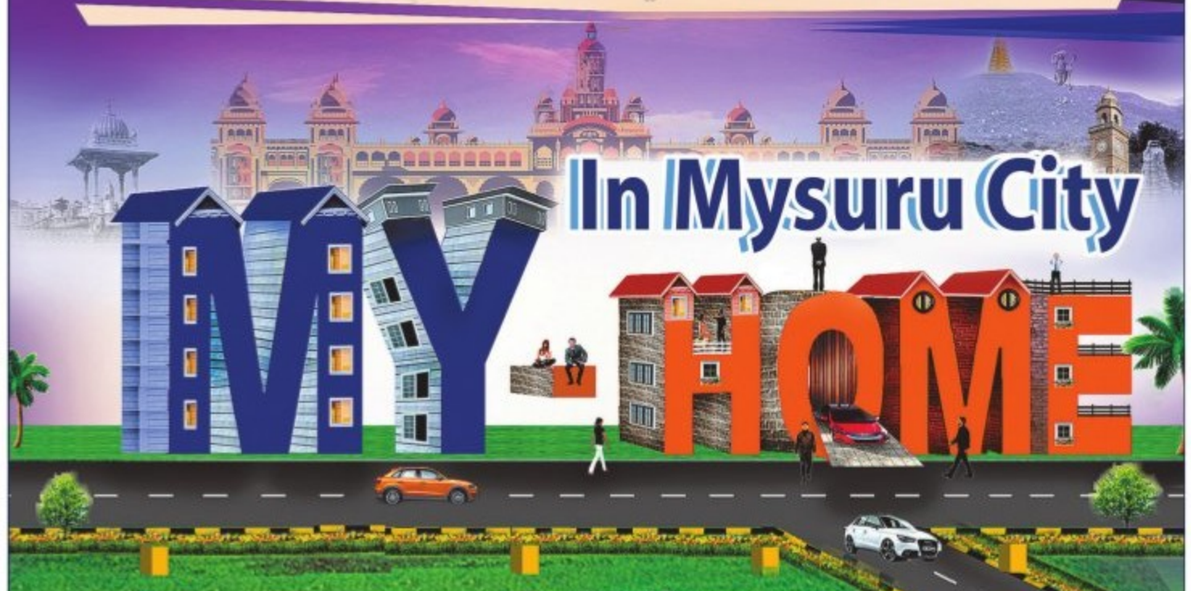

Last date and time for payment of EMD amount to participate in the e-auction and last date and time of closing of bidding

Serial Number of the Sites	Date for payment of EMD amount	Last date of Bidding
1-75	18-11-2020 12-30 PM	23-11-2020 7-30 PM
76-150	19.11.2020 12-30 PM	24.11.2020 7-30 PM
151-225	20.11.2020 12-30 PM	25.11.2020 7-30 PM
226-300	21.11.2020 12-30 PM	26.11.2020 7-30 PM
301-375	23.11.2020 12-30 PM	27.11.2020 7-30 PM
376-450	24.11.2020 12-30 PM	28.11.2020 7-30 PM

Date of Commencement of e-Auction and e-Bidding: 8-11-2020 at 11 am.

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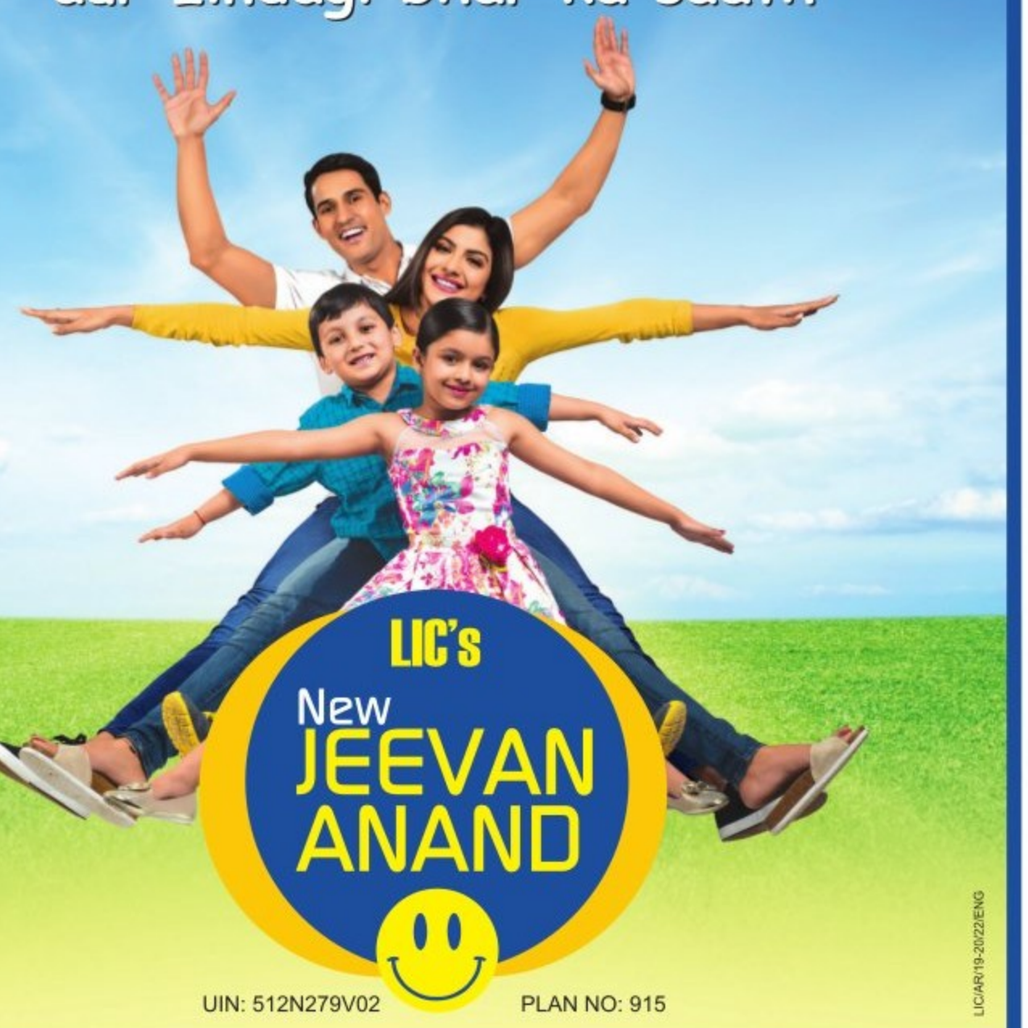

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

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ALMANAC TODAY

Saturday: 14/11/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana: Dakshinayana • Ritu: Sharad • Masa: Karthika • Paksha: shukla • Tithi: Prathami 08:55 am • Nakshatra: Anuradha 5:29 pm • Moon in Dhanur Rashi • Rahukaala: 09:00 am to 10:30 am • Gulikakala: 06:00 am to 07:30 am • Yamaganda: 01:49 pm to 03:26 pm

BENGALURU WEATHER

MIN 21°C | MAX 26°C

FORECAST
Thundershowers. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 6.18 am
Sunset 5.50 pm
Moonrise 7.15 am
Moonset 7.02 pm

Colleges set to reopen tomorrow

Hostel occupancy to be reduced by half; If tested positive, a lecturer will teach from home

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@Bengaluru

COLLEGES in Bengaluru are looking at a slew of measures to keep campuses safe and less populated as they get prepared to reopen for offline classes from Tuesday. Some have decided to reduce the hostel occupancy by half.

As per the state government's mandate, colleges will open up for classes and will accommodate final year students first. The first year admissions are still under way in some colleges.

Bengaluru University and its affiliated colleges are set to complete their practical classes in 20 days' time. This will be followed by internal assessments that will be rigorous, Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University K R Venugopal told TNIE.

This measure is in place so that in case colleges revert to online classes, the students would have at least completed their practicals offline, and internal examinations which would be held offline could carry greater weightage.

Venugopal said that by the time first year students arrive on the campus, the seniors would have left to continue theory classes online.

In case a lecturer tests positive, he/she will continue to teach from home, while the students will be sent home till the room is sanitised, he added.

Likewise, to remain decongested, Bengaluru North University Vice Chancellor Kemparaju said orientation for first year students and classes will continue online. As for hostels, the occupancy from the current three per room will be reduced to 1 or two, depending on the room dimensions, he said.

Asked if the colleges will be taking buildings on rent to accommodate students, he said, "We will first look at the attendance and the willingness of parents to send their wards, he said. VTU Vice Chancellor K Karisiddappa said hostels will be reduced to a single room occupancy. He said they will "review the situation in two weeks before taking further steps."

Engineering colleges have some more time to decide on their course of action as admissions to first year are still under way. The first year is likely to start only in January.

CBSE, ICSE schools finish portions, but state board teachers want offline classes

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@Bengaluru

WITH schools into the second half of the academic year, schools of CBSE and ICSE boards are gearing up to complete the syllabus. While some have completed the entire portion, others are lagging just a little behind.

State board schools, on the other hand, are faced with students and teachers who lack the necessary technology to keep up with online. As their only resort is offline classes, they are pushing for it.

"We have just about three chapters left from the syllabus for class 10 students," said Sawal Das Jethani Founder and Managing Trustee, Chrysalis High in Bengaluru.

The schools, he said, are faced with a dual problem -- one , in terms of clarity on which dates they need to reopen, and second, the unwillingness of parents to send their children to school till a vaccine is out. The fear is not so much about children than it is about the spread of virus among the elderly who live in the same house, he added.

A tangible fear still remains, added Mansoor Ali Khan, president, Managements of Independent CBSE Schools Association and secretary, Delhi Public School. An internal survey had revealed that 90 per cent of parents were hesitant in sending their wards.

By now, children too are comfortable with online classes, said Dr Gayatri Devi, secretary, Karnataka State ICSE Schools' Association. As for the board students of various schools, she reckons up to 65 per cent of the syllabus is completed. "The board too had laid out clear guidelines about which of the chapters were being eliminated this year, and annual plans were drawn accordingly," she said.

> We have asked the government to let us hold regular classes from this month onwards instead of Vidyagama
>
> HK Manjunath, president, State High School Assistant Teachers' Association

However, schools under the SSLC Board are buckling under. "One may say online classes are a norm now. Beyond the surface level, there is not much learning," said D Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Management of English Medium Schools in Karnataka. He said from an internal survey of schools in the association, about 40 per cent students attend the online classes.

The association has asked the Department of Public Instruction to allow them the option of offline consultative classes for class 9 to 12, with barely four months to go for the board examination.

"We have asked the government to let us hold regular classes from this month onwards instead of Vidyagama," said State High School Assistant Teachers' Association president HK Manjunath.

The association has also asked the government to cut short the syllabus, with the portion just 30 per cent complete during the first half of the year (pre-Dasara).

As per the government's mandate, colleges will accommodate final year students first

BU establishes five task forces before reopening

Bengaluru: To ensure a safe campus, Bangalore University has established five Task Forces to deal with Covid on campus. The recently-constituted task forces will monitor and supervise academic activities as well. The state government in its SOP for reopening of institutes, had mandated college-level and university-level task force to deal with Covid emergency. **ENS**

FESTIVE FERVOUR: Devotees offer arathi on the ocassion of Govardhana puja at ISKCON temple in Bengaluru on Sunday; (right) Children burst firecrackers and celebrate Diwali on Mysuru Road | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

BBMP identifies, valuates its properties, assesses lease papers

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

AN exercise by the estate wing of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to bring all properties under its ambit has found that the lease of 113 properties needs to be taken back.

In the past four months, BBMP identified 6,828 properties in the city and brought them under its ambit. It is also fixing the notional value of these properties.

So far, of the 6,828 properties, 324 properties worth Rs 4554.64 crore were leased to government agencies, and 235 properties, worth Rs 3579.54 crore, were leased to commercial units, which are now being checked.

"Of the 235 properties, the lease of 113 properties has expired, and we are on the fast track to get them back, as the notional value is high. Some who continue to enjoy the properties even after the lease agreement is over, are demanding that old financial revision should continue. However, we are keen on new guidance values as they will improve BBMP's financial condition also," a senior BBMP official told TNIE.

The official said a notice was served to all 235 commercial property tenants to bring their lease documents for verification also. "This is the first time the exercise of ascertaining the exact value of all properties under the corporation's ownership is being done, to know their exact asset value," the official added.

Apart from this, the assessment of all other properties, including pedestrian spaces, using Property Identification Numbers, is also being done to ascertain their ownership. In cases where there are encroachments, details are being checked with maps and revenue department records. "Of the 6,828 properties, 1,020 are parks and playgrounds, 205 lakes, and many other open spaces. The notional value of these properties is not being fixed as they will not be touched, even if BBMP has to mortgage its properties. The notional value of all the other properties is being fixed based on current guidance value and will be revised when guidance values are revised next year. A detailed study of all properties in newly added areas of Bengaluru is being done, because there are many vacant sites and a sudden mushrooming of construction activities," the official explained.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

16th November: I'd like to remind you of one of my favourite quotes. It's from the German philosopher Immanuel Kant. He said, 'Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing wonder and awe - the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me'. Wise words indeed, and spoken over two hundred years ago!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
This is one of those precious times when you can extract promises, guarantees and offers of financial assistance. If speculation is your game, you'll be on top form just as soon as you've figured out the facts. An emotional gamble may also pay off - but only if you've calculated the odds!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Today's sparkling Mercury-Venus partnership is an excellent indication of financial success, and indeed of correct decisions in every field. You are especially favoured if large domestic expenditure is underway. If you're in the housing market, have hope in your heart.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Your first step in the right direction is to square awkward issues with loved ones. If you wish to declare your desires, or tell someone how you feel about them, there is no time so good as the present. Once in a while, you are able to soar to poetic heights. Find the right words - and do it!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
What else can be said except that you are a financial genius? Before you go wild though, this wonderful state of affairs only holds true for a short while, so do your best to pick up whatever bargains you can today. But it could be emotional gains you're looking at, rather than financial.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Teamwork seems to be very important, but then isn't it always? But this time I am talking about genuine co-operation, in which you really do sit down and find out what other people want, and then do your best to fit in! Your role could be to open your more stuffy friends' eyes to new options.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Your secret fantasy life has been growing ever stronger, which is probably a very good thing indeed. You see, today's strange imaginings will become tomorrow's reality, so dream on. Also, accept any responsibility at work very willingly. It might seem like a burden now, but could bring hidden bounties.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Now you should be able to enjoy the company of people who once seemed to be so remote or unapproachable. Also, when looking at family connections, it seems to be long-distance links which are most important. In fact, this could be a time to build bridges.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
There is one last minor fracas waiting at work, or in some public area, but not just yet. I'm telling you this now so that you can continue to maintain your position and take elementary precautions as far as certain people are concerned. If you avert a problem, then your reputation will shoot up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Something that occurred towards the end of last week should have made it blatantly apparent that someone has been wasting your time. Don't blame them, though, for the fault lies elsewhere. What I really mean by that is that people who get it wrong may have been caught out by changing circumstances.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The Sun is a neutral sort of a star, symbolically speaking, but is now making a helpful aspect to Uranus, a difficult planet. The inescapable conclusion is that you can now transform a problem into a great boon. But do you have the required concentration? I hope so!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
It is time to buy chocolates, send flowers and write love letters. In other words, the moment has come for totally traditional declarations of your feelings. When dealing with money, concentrate on giving rather than spending. Don't worry - you should get it back, probably in kind.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Nothing will be finalised until the end of the month, but there's no reason why delay should be a problem. Actually, it could work to your advantage to get certain responsibilities and chores out of the way before returning to the fray and completing your goals.

THE PHANTOM

AFTER MY RESCUE, I WAS FREE TO TRAVEL, UNDER A NEW NAME...
TO ASSESS WHERE WE STAND AS A FAMILY, KADIA...
WE HAVE ASSETS AROUND THE WORLD! PROPERTIES AND ACCOUNTS THAT GOVERNMENTS WILL NEVER CONNECT TO YOUR FATHER!
!!
WE HAVE OUR LIVES BACK, KADIA! WE CAN LEAVE MAWITAAN TODAY!

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

I SHOULDN'T HAVE EATEN THAT WHOLE ANCHOVY, ONION, GARLIC, SAUSAGE AND PEPPERONI PIZZA!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
JUST HEARING THAT GIVES ME INDIGESTION!
GREG TARCHER WALKER

BLONDIE

ANOTHER STATE HAS BANNED PLASTIC STRAWS!
FUNNY, WHEN SOMETHING IS BANNED, PEOPLE SEEM TO WANT IT MORE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IF I SAID YOU CAN NEVER EAT A BIG, HOT, STEAMY TRIPLE-CHEESE PIZZA AGAIN...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
BUT IT'S ONLY 10 A.M.
PIZZA

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

8	4		9	7		6		
			2					7
					6			2
		1		8		5		
7				3				6
		8		9		7		
2			8					
9					4			
		6		5	7		9	4

HARD

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

8	1	7	3	6	4	2	9	5
9	3	2	1	5	8	7	4	6
4	6	5	7	2	9	3	8	1
6	2	1	4	3	5	8	7	9
7	9	3	6	8	1	5	2	4
5	4	8	2	9	7	6	1	3
2	7	6	9	1	3	4	5	8
3	5	9	8	4	2	1	6	7
1	8	4	5	7	6	9	3	2

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OHTOP

RUYHR

NEITVN

FASYEL

.JUM +25...XWRD -1:
The stock seems to be in demand.
It opened way higher than I thought it would.
THE COMPANY WENT PUBLIC, WHICH ALLOWED INVESTORS TO ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE _____

(Answers Monday)

Saturday's Jumbles: GOOSE IMAGE SLUDGE ELIXIR
Answer: The farmer and the hens thought the fox's foray into the henhouse was — "EGG-REGIOUS"

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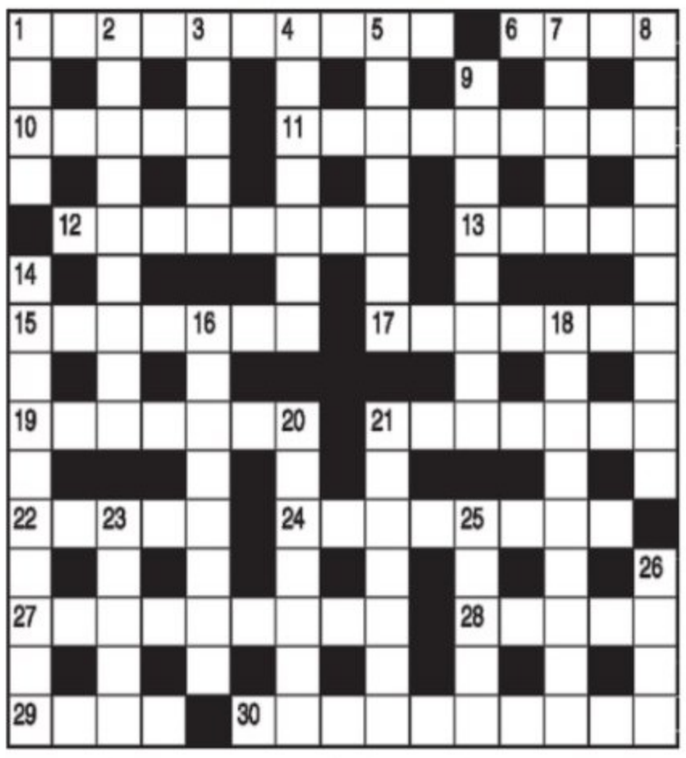
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Plant arrangement I set in a pot (10)
6 Kitty's back to stay (4)
10 Loves an anagram to work out (5)
11 Rebelling against authority, gets run in perhaps (9)
12 Being rich we shall have to join the party (4-2-2)
13 A driver's objective of course (5)
15 Sideways? (7)
17 Port of granite construction (7)
19 Hill split by flood (7)
21 Artist's little friend? (7)
22 Eireann flag appears on hospital (5)
24 Trust Mao to show greater cleverness (8)
27 Language may make neat prose (9)
28 In short, a final result of a snap decision (5)
29 Place we hear for a badger to live (4)
30 A quality one considers oneself worthy to have (4-6)

DOWN

1 Location of listed building, favourite of tourists (4)
2 Peevishness I shall moderate (3,6)
3 May be cold yet good tempered (5)
4 Disport around the photographer's equipment (7)
5 To put it succinctly, its horn is twisted (2,5)
7 No, no; not here! (5)
8 Arrange to send away for some goods? (3,2,5)
9 The prototype of a girl in love possibly (8)
14 In bar seats perhaps, but they won't be drinking (10)
16 May be seen round the trunk of this tree possibly (3,5)
18 Put in for one stripe as ordered (9)
20 Beat the counter-reformation (7)
21 Doesn't encourage delays (4,3)
23 Insertion of computer data is not out of place (5)
25 Isn't happy writing poems out (5)
26 Change of mood that may be fatal (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Motives, 5 Moses, 8 Plutocrat, 9 Ace, 10 Deed, 12 Strike up, 14 Ration, 15 Bazaar, 17 Pomander, 18 Veto, 21 Ego, 22 On the mend, 24 Sweet, 25 Rooster.

Down: 1 Moped, 2 Tau, 3 Viol, 4 Sprite, 5 Mythical, 6 Stage name, 7 Sleeper, 11 Extempore, 13 Point out, 14 Repress, 16 Better, 19 Order, 20 Nemo, 23 Eat.

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Sudhakar picked to oversee Hyd corpn poll

Co-incharge role comes as big recognition for medical education minister who crossed over from Congress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HEALTH Minister **Dr K Sudhakar**, who is at the forefront of Karnataka's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, will be part of BJP's team working on the party's strategies for the upcoming elections to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation.

BJP President JP Nadda on Sunday appointed National General Secretary Bhupender Yadav as the party's election in-charge for Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections, and Dr Sudhakar as co-incharge. Bommanahalli MLA Satish Reddy, MLA from Maharashtra Ashish Shelar, and Gujarat party unit secretary Pradipsinh Vaghela are also appointed as co-incharge.

Responding to the party's decision, Sudhakar said he will work hard to fulfil the responsibility assigned to him. "I thank @BJP4India leadership for appointing me as co-Incharge for the GHMC elections. I am humbled and will work hard to fulfil the responsibility given to me," stated Sudhakar.

Sudhakar was among the rebel Congress legislators who resigned from the party and assembly membership to help the BJP form the government in the state in 2019. After he was re-elected on a BJP ticket, Sudhkar was inducted into the cabinet as Medical Education Minister. The Health portfolio, that was with senior BJP leader B Sriramulu, was also given to Sudhakar to ensure better coordination in the fight against the pandemic. Sources in the party said the central leaders' decision to draft him into a team that will work on elections in another state is a big recognition for Sudhakar, who joined the BJP last year. His work as minister in-charge of the fight against the pandemic and his ability to articulate the party position as well as government policies, is said to have been appreciated by senior leaders in the party.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Agriculture Minister BC Patil sprays fesrtilizer in a field as part of his 'day with farmers' initiative

Village Day: Patil trolled for 'generosity'

Agriculture Minister BC Patil's initiative of spending a day with farmers to understand their problems and make efforts to resolve them, seems quite novel. The police officer-turned actor-turned politician was at a village in KR Pete in Mandya district. Everything seemed to have gone well until the minister posted a picture of himself spraying fertilizer on to fully grown paddy, beatific smile in place. No doubt, for social media optics. But this largesse with fertilizer was heavily trolled by netizens, who questioned Patil's understanding of farming. Some wanted to know why such a large crowd had gathered in the paddy field, as it could damage the crop. Others suggested that Patil should have been told that it was not a film shooting. There were, however, the regulars who appreciated Patil's pastoral efforts and the time he spent with farmers.

Sira victory and the crown prince

The Sira bypoll victory for BJP appears to be the result of a combined effort — Deputy CM Govind Karjol, Hiriyur MLA Poornima, MLC Ravikumar and others worked day and night to win the constituency, where the party had once logged less than 17,000 votes. Pitted against Congress warhorse TB Jayachandra and Ammajamma Sathyanarayana of the JDS, it was a dream start for debutant Dr Rajesh Gowda. As one analyst pointed out, it was Karjol and Poornima who helped transfer significant chunks of community votes to the BJP. But at the end of day, the person who walked away with the credit was CM Yediyurappa's son B Y Vijayendra. Not surprising, for there is an unwritten rule in politics: when the son rises and shines, all else pales into insignificance.

E-banking option for alms too

Bengaluru is truly a digital city — here, beggary and bandwidth go hand in hand. The increasing number of alms seekers on the city roads, especially transgenders, is testimony to the fact that Covid has hit them hard. But what's different is that they no longer seek petty cash. To keep themselves safe from the virus, yet stay afloat, they are optimising technology. One group of transgenders who approached a scribe for money, failed to back off even after repeated polite refusals and pleas that she did not have cash. Pat came the reply, "You can Google Pay or PhonePe", as they flaunted their smartphones to share payment details.

After the strongman, who?

He may have two bypoll victories under his belt, but CM B S Yediyurappa's tenure continues to be the subject of speculation. The party is openly discussing a future without the strongman, and who could be the successor -- some appear probable, others a long shot and yet others from the fringe. The names doing the rounds are of Deputy CM Laxman Savadi, a Lingayat Ganiga leader belonging to the same subsect that Yediyurappa does, Union minister Pralhad Joshi, a Brahmin, besides strident critic Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, a Lingayat. Who it will be is anybody's guess.

DCC bank poll: JDS seeks BJP help

K SHIVAKUMAR @Mysuru

OLD friends BJP and JDS may renew their ties for the Mandya District Central Cooperative Bank president's election slated for November 17, to keep the Congress at bay.

Eight of the DCC Bank directors are from Congress, while four are from JDS, which has now knocked on the doors of BJP to seek the support of three government nominees. With this, the JDS will have seven directors and sill short of majority. But one who has identified with Congress is likely to jump ship and join the JDS-BJP faction giving the grouping a majority.

JDS leaders have reportedly approached Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa

Worried local Congress leaders have knocked on the doors of KPCC president D K Shivakumar and Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah to help in bagging the post, as it will strengthen the party in the district. Siddaramaiah has already called the director who wanted to switch his allegiance to JDS-BJP and asked him to support Congress.

Sources said that JDS leaders have approached Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa seeking the support of government nominees. The JDS' gameplan is to stop Shivakumar from gaining in political status with a win here. Both JDS leaders and Shivakumar aim for the same Vokkaliga voter base.

Former minister and JDS leader N Chaluvarayaswamy confirmed that the party is trying to stop Congress from winning the president's post at DCC Bank.

But a few BJP leaders are against the arrangement as the party had locked horns with JDS and won the keenly contested KR Pet by-election last year. Any such arrangement would impact the panchayat elections that are likely to be held soon. Maintaining an equidistance from both Congress and JDS would help the BJP expand its base in this Vokkaliga-dominated JDS bastion, they feel. "We have expressed our opinion. But we will abide by whatever decision the party takes," said a senior party leader, requesting anonymity.

AXE FALLS

BSY drops his political adviser

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa's political adviser **M B Maramkal**, who served him for well over a year, has been dropped. Maramkal, a former journalist, was first seen publicly with Yediyurappa during the controversial meeting between the chief minister and JDS MLA Naganna Kandakur's son Sharan Kandakur and Shivanagouda Naik in Yadgir.

Maramkal, who was constantly with Yediyurappa throughout his tenure, was discharged with a short three-line order, indicating that he had fallen out with the Chief Minister. It was public knowledge that certain members of Yediyurappa's family resented his proximity to the Chief Minister and are suspected to be instrumental in his exit.

He is said to have advised Yediyurappa on putting together the present government, in spite of being short on numbers, using dissident MLAs from the Congress and JDS, and a grateful Yediyurappa had rewarded Maramkal last year by elevating him to the post of political adviser, a cabinet rank position. Maramkal is a career journalist who served with an English daily in a career spanning over three decades.

Girish Hosur new BMRDA commissioner

ENS @ Belagavi

GIRISH Hosur, an IFS officer of 1996 batch and a native of Khanapur taluk of Belagavi, who had taken charge as Secretary to Chief Minister of Government of Karnataka at Bengaluru in April this year, is now placed in concurrent charge of the post of Commissioner, Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority at Bengaluru with immediate effect. P Vasanthakumar will be handing over the charge to Hosur.

Hosur was earlier Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Higher Education, Government of India. He has also served as Deputy Conservator of Forests in Belagavi.

Eye on GP elections, BJP invites South Canara DCC Bank head to join party

VINCENT D'SOUZA @Mangaluru

AHEAD of the crucial gram panchayat elections, the BJP is making efforts to get M N Rajendra Kumar, chairman, South Canara DCC Bank, to join the party. He holds considerable clout in the rural areas of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

At the 67th All India Co-operative Week held in Mangaluru on Sunday, BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel gave an open invite to Kumar to join the party stating that the latter "can rise to greater heights in the co-operative sector if he is with them". In the same event, co-operation minister S T Somashekar described Kumar as a doyen of the co-operative sector and said he has all the qualities to shine at the international level.

Kumar, 72, who is also the current chairman of Karnataka State Co-operative Federation, is a Congress member and was a ticket aspirant from Dakshina Kannada Lok Sabha seat in the 2019 elections. He has set a record by consistently being elected as chairman of SCDCC Bank since the last 27 years. BJP could not taste success in the bank election despite the coast being its stronghold. On the other hand, the saffron party has not been able to see big success in the panchayat elections in the coast unlike the Lok Sabha and assembly elections.

In the backdrop of these factors, BJP understands that having Kumar on its side can be beneficial to the party in not just the panchayat elections but also the 2024 DCC Bank election. With more than 400 co-operative societies under it, the DCC Bank has a strong network in rural areas which the BJP has set its eyes on to win the panchayat elections.

However, sources close to Kumar feel that it is most unlikely that he will switch over to the saffron party. DCC Bank director and Congress leader Sadashiva Ullal said it is not for the first time that BJP leaders have tried to get Kumar into their party fold.

'Most Covid victims were diabetic, hypertensive'

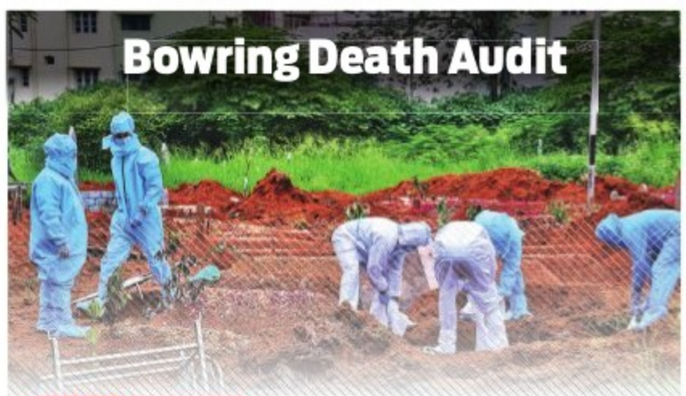
RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

A Covid death audit until November 8 at Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute, a government hospital, found that a majority of the victims were diabetic (119 patients) or hypertensive (99 patients). Totally, there have been 221 Covid deaths in this hospital.

"Diabetic and hypertensive patients are immunocompromised and are susceptible to secondary infections. Once they have a viral infection like Covid, their blood sugar levels rise, while their lungs are affected by the virus. In such a situation, they cannot recover. In hypertension patients, the heart is affected and when they contract Covid-19, they may suffer viral myocarditis, which is inflammation of the heart muscles, leading to death," said Dr Manoj Kumar, dean and director, Bowing College and Hospital.

In Bowring, nine patients stayed for less than an hour before succumbing to the virus, 17 people stayed for less than six hours before passing away, 19 people were in hospital for 6 to 12 hours, 16 people stayed between 12 to 24 hours, 79 people were admitted for 1 to 5 days, and 84 people stayed for more than five days.

As per Dr Mahesh DM, consultant, Endocrinology, Aster CMI Hospital, both diabetes Type 1 and 2 are chronic diseases that produce high sugar levels in the blood (or blood glucose). In diabetics, the body may reduce insulin production which transforms body glucose into energy. Consequently, glucose builds up in the body and in severe cases, diabetics have to take insulin to reduce blood sugar levels.



NO OF DEATHS	AGE GROUP
50	61 to 70
47	51 to 60
44	71 to 80
38	41 to 50
17	31 to 40
8	21 to 30
2	11 to 20

NO. OF DEATHS
145 MALE
76 FEMALE

FATALITIES	COMORBIDITIES
119	Diabetes
99	Hypertension
38	Ischemic heart disease
15	Acute Kidney Injury/ Chronic Kidney Disease
9	Thyroid Illness
6	Malignancy
32	Others

"Regardless of the diabetes type, the immune system gets compromised and the patient becomes more prone to coronavirus, which thrives in a context of elevated blood glucose. Elderly patients, particularly, are more susceptible to the effects of Covid-19 in a diabetes context. Studies have shown a strong link between controlled blood sugar and lower inflammatory markers, while high blood sugar can lead to severe complications or even cause death," Dr Mahesh said.

The largest category of patients who passed away in Bowring Hospital fell in the 61 to 70 age group (50 patients), followed by the 51 to 60 age group (47 patients), 71 to 80 age group (44 patients), 41 to 50 age group (38 patients), 31 to 40 years (17 patients), 21 to 30 years (8 patients) and 11 to 20 years (2 patients). Of the 221 deaths, 145 were male and 76 were female.

Dr Ravindra Mehta, senior consultant and HOD, Pulmonology and Interventional Pulmonology, Apollo Speciality Hospitals, said not enough research has been done to know the exact mechanism by which diabetes and hypertension leads to death in Covid patients.

However, what we do know is what happens between the virus and immune system.

"Statistically, having diabetes and hypertension increases the risk of mortality in Covid patients. They also alter the immune system, by affecting the body's ability to fight the virus. A diabetic having insulin resistance adds to the problem. If we give them steroids, sugar levels go up. The patients are susceptible to secondary infections such as fungal ones," Dr Mehta said.

POST-RECOVERY ISSUES

50-YEAR-OLD GETS SEVERE COMPLICATIONS WITH COVID

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

IN spite of the number of pleas by the doctors, for e arly reporting, if one gets symptoms of covid, people yet seem to be careless and come at the last moment, when their condition deteriorates. In one such incident, a 50-year-old patient who reported late with severe Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and was tested positive for Covid-19, took 60 days for the patient to recover in a private hospital and even after post recovery is still under treatment.

The patient, Rekha (name changed) was diagnosed with severe ARDS and was a diabetic patient. When she reported to the hospital, her oxygen saturation levels had dropped and had to be given oxygen and was moved to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Rekha's oxygen level kept dropping and the next method was to give her mechanical ventilation. "The patient's oxygen level was very low and she had fluctuations in her blood pressure, as she did not respond to oxygen she was given mechanical ventilation. The patients condition was very severe and would require longer recovery and hence a tracheostomy (which gives a prolonged ventilation support) was done on the patient." said Dr Sunil Kumar K, Consultant, Interventional Pulmonology, Aster CMI Hospital.

After 45 days of ICU admission, the patient recovered and was moved to a general ward , but she developed critical illness neuropathy — a disease of peripheral nerves, occurring as a complication of severe trauma or infection. "The patient could not move her legs and we had to provide her with nutrition and carry out physiotherapy sessions for another 15 days, after which she was discharged in October, but was yet on ventilator." said Dr Kumar.

The patient's oxygen level was very low and she had fluctuations in her blood pressure, as she did not respond to oxygen she was given mechanical ventilation

Dr Sunil Kumar K, Consultant, Interventional Pulmonology, Aster CMI Hospital

The patient even post recovery is yet unable to move, and needs support to sit or stand and is on anti fiboritic medication. The patient even in the month of November has still been making visits to the hospital for physiotherapy and pulmonary rehabilitation every week as her condition is yet to get better. "In Rekha's case the recovery is slow, and it will take sometime. She still needs oxygen support." he added.

Dr Kumar stated that it is a must for patient to report early. "Reporting early can save ones life. People need to be sensitive to symptoms and test themselves at earliest. Checking their oxygen level on a regular basis is a must. And one should follow all the covid norms like social distancing, hand hygeiene and wearing masks and stay away from getting infected with Covid."

The Lord Ayyappa shrine Sabarimala was opened on Sunday kick-starting the annual two-month-long Mandalam-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season. Melsanthi Sudhir Nampoothiri, whose one-year term concluded on Sunday, opened the sreekovil of the temple at 5 pm

Kerala will not bow to BJP, UDF threat tactics: Isaac

Chennithala supporting the BJP in this effort and harming the state by trying to kill its right to borrow, says finance minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

THE BJP – by using the Comptroller Auditor General (CAG) against the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) – is trying to play the same trick that it has recently played with the help of the Enforcement Directorate and other agencies in some other cases, Finance Minister **Thomas Isaac** said here on Sunday.

He said Opposition Leader Ramesh Chennithala is supporting the BJP in this effort and harming the state by trying to kill its right to borrow. In the wake of the draft CAG report, the state government is preparing a detailed 100-page report to clarify the assets and liabilities of KIIFB, he said.

"The report will be submitted to CAG through the chief secretary. A copy of the same will be made available to the public. Everything is transparent in KIIFB," the finance minister said.

Regarding BJP state president K Surendran's demand to launch an ED probe into the KIIFB fund utilisation citing links between the gold smuggling case, Isaac termed the allegations baseless.

Kerala Finance Minister TM Thomas Isaac at CPM's Lenin Centre in Kochi on Sunday

"Everything in KIIFB is transparent. The BJP president doesn't even know the basics of the functioning of KIIFB. That is why he is coming up with such childish remarks. The BJP is trying to play the same tricks which it has played in the state with the help of ED in this case also. That plan will not work in Kerala. They can try it somewhere in northern India, not here. This is Kerala," he said.

Isaac pointed out that the UDF Government in 2006, when Oommen Chandy was the chief minister, had taken a stance that there is no need for a CAG audit in KIIFB.

"In a letter submitted by the then fund manager, Alok Sheel, to the principal accountant general, the then government explained that as per the KIIFB Scheme 1999 the accounts of the board shall be audited by a chartered accountant appointed by the board," he said.

The accounts audited by the chartered accountant, along with the audit report, is forwarded annually to the finance department principal secretary, state government and CAG for their comments, Isaac said.

"It was followed by the UDF government too. Even Chennithala knows that it is the usual practice. If he didn't know about KIIFB, then better ask Oommen Chandy before coming up with allegations against an institution which is functioning in the right direction," he said.

GP member sets pregnant wife ablaze

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

IN a horrific incident, a gram panchayat (GP) member allegedly killed his pregnant wife by pouring kerosene over her and setting her ablaze on Saturday.

The deceased, Shanthamma, was the wife of Ramesh, a member of Doddamulagodu Gram Panchayat. In a complaint at the Bannur police station, Shanthamma's father Kalingaswamy alleged that Ramesh was pestering his daughter to get Rs 5 lakh from her parents as he wanted to contest the upcoming GP election. "When she failed to get the money, he killed my daughter," he stated.

He alleged that Ramesh's mother Ningamma, uncle Javaraiah and others too were involved in his daughter's murder. Claiming that two years ago when his daughter got married, they had given Rs 50,000 cash and 60 gm of gold ornaments as dowry, he said, "But Ramesh wanted my daughter to get Rs 5 lakh from us as he wanted to contest the panchayat election." The Bannur police have registered a case under IPC Sections 302 (murder), 498A (cruelty against wife) and 304B (death caused by burns or any other injury). DySP Prabhakar Rao Shindhe and other officers visited the spot and a team was formed to nab the accused who are absconding.

City sees big drop in eye injuries

ENS @Bengaluru

THE number of cases of firecracker-related eye injuries have dropped drastically this year. Minto Eye Hospital, which usually sees more than 30 such cases almost every year, saw just three, all of them children, on the second day of the festival.

In the first case, a 12-year-old boy, a bystander in Vijayanagar, got injured when someone lit a flower pot. The boy suffered superficial burns on his nose and eyelids, and a corneal abrasion. However, doctors are worried about the injury in his eye, which has affected his vision. Dr Sujatha Rathod, Director of Minto Eye Hospital, said, "We hope that there is no central scarring which will impair vision."

The second case was of a 13-year-old from Sampige Halli Layout who suffered a lamellar corneal tear after foreign bodies entered his eye when he was standing near a chain of firecrackers. In the third case, a four-year-old boy near Magadi Road, suffered a conjunctival tear after fragments from a firecracker entered his eye.

At Narayana Nethralaya, there were four cases. However, ophthalmologists stated that all of them were minor injuries.

Dr Raghu Nagaraju, consultant ophthalmology, Apollo Hospital, stated that he came across two patients, a 17-year-old and a 24-year-old with corneal abrasions.

FESTIVE SHOWERS

Heavy showers dampen the festive spirit as residents of Bengaluru celebrate the Deepavali weekend on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

Shetty accused of $6.6bn fraud in UAE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A consortium of Indian banks had requested travel restrictions on him to pursue the process of repayment.

Besides, an Indian court had prohibited Shetty and his wife Dr Chandrakumari from selling properties guaranteed against the loans.

The source said Shetty and Chandrakumari were to leave together for Abu Dhabi, but only she was allowed to board the flight.

Shetty had spent eight months in India since February, mainly to visit his ailing brother who passed away in March-end, and had assured people in Dubai that he would return to the United Arab Emirates, where he faces charges too. Those charges pertain to an alleged fraud committed by his former senior executives amounting to $6.6 billion. Shetty had assured UAE authorities of his return, especially after doubts were being raised that he had fled that country to evade the charges.

He had also reportedly filed a complaint with the Federal Attorney-General of the UAE in April-end requesting a thorough probe into those alleged frauds by his former executives, said to have been committed in collaboration with bank officials.

From being sold as 'slave' to pursuing a college degree

SUSHMITHA RAMAKRISHNAN @Chennai

ROSES wither and fall, but the thorns remain. Mallesh Badrappa is an allegory of this thorn, having endured 15 years at a fragrant rose farm as a bonded labourer.

When Mallesh was sold as a 'slave' to a rose farm owner, he was six. After grazing cattle for almost six years, he stepped into the prickly landscape of lush, fragrant rose bushes. His work entailed plucking 1,500 roses every two days, braving the thorns encapsulating the delicate flowers, his bleeding hands waiting to grab his square meal.

But, not any longer. Today, at 21 years, Mallesh is attending online classes after having enrolled in the Bachelors of Social Work (BSW) course in Madras Christian College. Mallesh tells Express, how education has helped him climb out of the bondage and has empowered him to make his own choices. "The scars from the rose thorns did not disappear even a year after I was rescued from the farm. I knew that studying was the only way to escape those scars for good," he said.

Mallesh's parents died when he was two weeks old. He knows little about his parents' death and even less about their lives. His older siblings ostracised him and blamed him for their parents' demise.

Mallesh Badrappa

"When I finished Class 1, my brother and my aunt sent me to a rose farm in Krishnagiri," he said. His day started early as he untied a pair of cows and grazed them along the way to a tea shop, where he was allowed to drink tea every morning.

"Pulling out weeds, cleaning, de-silting, and silting irrigation paths in the farm was also my job," he said. When asked if he was ever paid for his labour, he said, "I was fed every day. There was no pay. As I got older, the work load increased."

Mallesh recalled that the owner's children used to go to a private school, but it never once occurred to him that he should too. "When I was 12 years old, my brother fought with my owner and sold me to another rose farmer in the same district," he said.

Collector booked for PA's murder

ENS @ Bhubaneswar/ Malkangiri

Police registered a murder case against Malkangiri Collector Manish Agarwal following an order of the SDJM court in connection with the mysterious death of his personal assistant Deba Narayan Panda.

Panda went missing on December 27, 2019, and a day later, his body was fished out from a dam. Panda's family members had alleged that he was murdered but police had filed a case of unnatural death and hinted that it was possibly a suicide.

3 held for forging land documents

ENS @ Bengaluru

Police arrested a gang of three men for allegedly cheating people by trying to sell land with forged land documents. The accused Basavaraju, Prasanna Kumar and Umhesh, all residents of Devanahalli, had created fake documents of 138 acres of land around Devanahalli, Doddaballapura and Yelahanka, and tried to sell them.

Police said that recently, a farmer had approached them and complained that his land documents were forged. But, the accused plotted to grab his land by fabricating documents. The police then gathered details about the accused and took them into custody.

BESCOM employee stabbed to death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A man killed his 37-year-old sister-in-law, a BESCOM employee, by stabbing her 20 times in broad daylight over a domestic row in Ramamurthy Nagar on Sunday. He then attempted to end his life by stabbing himself.

The victim, Lavanya, was a resident of KR Puram. The accused, Vijay Kumar, a tailor, is recovering at a hospital.

A senior police officer said that Vijay Kumar used to harass his wife Lakshmi for dowry, so her elder sister Lavanya threatened to file a dowry harassment case against him. On Sunday, they had a fight and Kumar took a kitchen knife and stabbed her repeatedly. She died on the spot and when Kumar slit his throat to end his life, residents rushed him to a private hospital.

Based on a complaint filed by Kumar's wife, the police are investigating the case and said that he will be arrested after his discharge.

CRIME PATROL

Inter-state fake currency racket busted, 3 held

Bengaluru: Mico Layout police busted an inter-state fake currency racket by arresting three people who were trying to smuggle fake currency into the city. Suman S (36), Munishekar (29) and Devarajan Y (31), all from Tamil Nadu, were arrested on Saturday. Acting on a tip-off, the police stopped the car and found bundles of currency notes stacked in the dashboard. There were 389 fake currency notes of 2,000 denominations worth Rs 7.7 lakh along with a few more bundles of plain sheets cut into the size of Rs 2,000 and Rs 500 notes. The accused confessed that they had come to the city to circulate the fake currency notes during the festive season.

5 'cops' who robbed jewellery store arrested

Bengaluru : A day after five men robbed a jewellery store by impersonating policemen on Friday, the Ulsoor Gate police busted the gang on Saturday. Nadeem Pasha, Syed, Firoz, Muneef and Suraj used to work as auto drivers and mechanics. Police said the gang came to Geetha Jewels in the afternoon and told the staffers that they had come to raid the place after receiving information that the store was selling fake ornaments. The gang then took some gold and silver ornaments, and also contacted the owner, who is in Kolkata, and told him to come to Ulsoor Gate police station for investigation. Later, one of the staffers, Karthik, came to the police station and realised that they were robbers. But he had noted down number, which led to their arrest.

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NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (e-NIT)

Online "Single Percentage Rate" Bid(s) / offer(s) are invited in two part bid system for execution of the following works in connection with "Land Development, RCC Retaining Walls, Compound Wall, Buildings (Control Room, PMCC, Security Room, Ware House), Flexible and Rigid Pavements Culverts for Grass Root Oil Terminal at Atchutapuram, Andhra Pradesh."

Sl. No.	Name of Work:	NIT No. & Date of Hosting	Last date of submission of Offer
A.	Execution of General Civil & Road Works such as PCC, RCC, Formwork, Reinforcement & Inserts, Brickwork, Plastering, Paver Block and Concrete Road works with their own Materials, Machinery and Manpower on Sub-Contract Basis	B&R / HO / 51205 / TD / GENERAL CIVIL & ROAD WORK / 01 Dated: 16.11.2020	30.11.2020 within 4.00 P.M

Interested Bidder(s) have to enroll & register with the Government e- Procurement System and downlode the Tender document through logging on to https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app
Corrigendum / Addendum, if any shall be hosted in CPP Portal i.e. https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and in Company's Website http://www.bridgeroof.co.in. only.

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, J.L.N. Marg, Jaipur

No.: JDA/EE&TA to Dir. Engg.-1/2020-21/D-134 Dated: 13/11/2020

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No. : EE & TA to Dir.Engg.-1/12/2020-21

Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given.

S. No.	Zone	Job No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work(Lacs)	Last date bid invited online
1	Executive Engineer-9	133/ 2019-20	Restoration and profile correction of important roads damaged due to laying of pipelines by PHED in Zone-9 area. JDA, Jaipur (Phase-III) UBN : JDA2021WSOB00246	282.00	07.12.2020 Up to 6.00 pm

Details may be seen in the Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in

Samwad/C/6804/2020-2021

Executive Engineer & TA to Dir. Engg.-I
JDA, Jaipur

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, J.L.N. Marg, Jaipur

No:- JDA/EE&TAto Dir.Engg.-II/2020-21/D-257 Dated: 13/11/2020

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No. : EE & TA to Dir.Eng-II/17/2020-21

Bids are invited for works given below in various zones as per details given :-

S. No.	Zone	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount (Rs. In Lacs)	Last date bid invited online
1	Executive Engineer-2	113 2020-21	Renewal of Main Roads in Zone-2 JDA, Jaipur (UBN No: JDA2021WSOB00253)	272.93	07.12.2020 Up to 6.00 PM
2	Executive Engineer-4	111 2020-21	Renewal of Main Roads(80 ft. Sector Road Siddharth Nagar , Taruchya Nagar Main Road, Gold Sukh to 80 ft Road and Akhil Nagar & Thermoplastic Paint & Enamel Paint on Major Roads) in Zone 4 Area JDA Jaipur. (UBN No: JDA2021WSOB00257)	236.63	08.12.2020 Up to 6.00 PM
3	Executive Engineer-6	108 2020-21	Renewal of Main Road 100' Wide Benad Road Eastside-Dadi Ka Phatak ROB to Sitawali Phatak in Zone-6 Area JDA, Jaipur (UBN No: JDA2021WSOB00239)	317.32	03.12.2020 Up to 6.00 PM
3	Executive Engineer-7	116 2020-21	Renewal of Main Roads in Zone-7 JDA, Jaipur (UBN No: JDA2021WLOB00242)	550.00	07.12.2020 Up to 6.00 PM

Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at concerned Executive Engineer's office or the website of State Public Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in. To participate in the bid, bidder has to be:

1. Registered on JDA website www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in for participating in the Bid, the Bidder has to apply for the Bid and pay the Bidding Document Fee, RISL Processing Fee and Bid Security Deposit, online only.
2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for online e-Bid submission.

Samwad/C/6807/2020-2021

Executive Engineer & TA to Dir.Engg-II, JDA, Jaipur

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of The Chief Engineer (East),
7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore - 560009.

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites item rate tenders in Two Stage Tender System from Eligible Contractors for the below mentioned works.

Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender EMD
No.BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-I/DCE(M)-II/TA(M)-II/3369/2020-21	Date: 12.11.2020
Providing laying and linking of 450mm x 300mm dia water supply line from M.G Road pump house as a contingency plan to facilitate the construction of Vellara underground Metro station under R-6-UG-R-2 BMRCL project coming under CLR service station of AEE(SE-1) sub division.	Rs. 1,45,44,000/- Rs. 2,18,160/-
Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on: 01.12.2020 upto 15.00 hrs. Date of Opening of tender: 02.12.2020 after 17.00 hrs.	
No.BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-I/DCE(M)-I/TA(M)-I/3378/2020-21	Date: 12.11.2020
Providing and laying 711mm dia MS pipeline along HMT Main Road under AEE(NE-1) sub division under DC works of BBMP.	Rs. 128.71Lakhs Rs.1.93 Lakhs
Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on: 04.12.2020 upto 15.00 hrs. Date of Opening of tender: 06.12.2020 after 17.00 hrs.	

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging in to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. For Further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

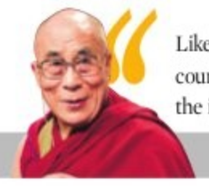
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (East)

DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O:1668/2020-21

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

EDITORIAL



Like anything else, life has a beginning and in due course must end. In between those two events the important goal should be to live meaningfully

Dalai Lama

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

CONSULT STAKEHOLDERS TO FRAME NORMS FOR DIGITAL PLATFORMS

The Union government's announcement last week bringing all digital platforms, including entertainment, films and news portals, under the information and broadcasting ministry, was on expected lines, though the exercise could end up being contentious. The Centre had in recent weeks told the Supreme Court that it considered policing the unregulated digital and social media content a higher priority than strengthening the fence around electronic media, since TV and print already have a regulatory framework. What kind of new norms will be put in place is yet unclear, though digital media has been lumped with over-the-top (OTT) platforms such as Netflix and Hotstar and placed in the film basket, instead of the media category.

Given the hazy picture, to argue right now that this is the first step towards censorship, as some stakeholders have said, could be premature. Will the government finally end up restricting licensing, imposing entry barriers or resorting to censorship if the content is not to the liking of the establishment? There are two sides to the argument. While those managing online news portals have pointed out that regulations that govern print or electronic media are also applicable to digital platforms in a broad sense, the government's argument is that given the scope for wider and faster reach of digital content, it is important to place them under legally established regulatory structures.

Regulation of the internet is not unique to India, as countries like the US, France, Germany, Singapore and China are attempting newer ways to control the medium. Typically, restrictions are sought to be placed on grounds of national security, economic security (fraud) and protection of reputation. While none would argue against checking the proliferation of fake news and spread of objectionable content, the latter hinges on a thin line as anything that is seen against the government of the day or a religion can be branded as objectionable. Holding divergent thoughts and views is not a crime. A healthy debate needs to be encouraged, not the kind of online threats, abuses, falsehoods and offensive language that we are witness to. The government would do well to adopt a consultative process in the true spirit of democracy so that regulations strengthen and not muzzle online content.

INDIA'S RELUCTANCE TO GO FOR SPLIT CAPTAINCY

Leadership is an important aspect of team games. Of these, the captain's role is most distinct in cricket. It is him or her who takes decisions on the field. Others around can offer suggestions, but the call has to be taken by captains. After limited-over games became popular, teams felt the need to split the responsibility according to the requirements of the formats. After Australia started having different captains for Tests and one-dayers, this became the practice everywhere. The only country not to have tried this as a strategy is India. Sourav Ganguly, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and one of India's best captains ever, said as late as in July that Indian teams do not need this.

A major reason India did not think of it all this while was the presence of M S Dhoni, who led in all formats. But it is unfair to expect that his successor Virat Kohli, or anybody else, will also have Dhoni's phenomenal ability to adapt and do the job in Test matches, one-dayers and T20s. The cry for split captaincy roles in India is not unjustified. Had Rohit Sharma's leadership skills not come to the fore in the Indian Premier League (IPL), this may not have been discussed. But his remarkable run of success for Mumbai Indians and Kohli's disappointing run as captain of Royal Challengers Bangalore has sparked this debate. As next October's T20 World Cup comes closer, this will get louder. Going by performance in a keenly contested tournament and how they react to pressure in this format, Rohit the captain seems to be better than Kohli.

But then, this is not just about Kohli or Rohit. They will not decide this. The decision has to be taken by the BCCI. For a body unwilling to have different captains so far, this will take some soul searching and a cultural change. To say 'we have never done this' is foolish as it was never as important as it is now. If not immediately, a day will come when Indian teams will need this. The irony is, even an astute cricket brain like Ganguly's is refusing to acknowledge this.

My findings, based on work in organisation development and change management, suggest a pattern and process for growth and sustainability

WHY DO ONLY SOME COMPANIES KEEP GROWING?

ASHOKE K MAITRA
Senior HR Adviser

AMIT BANDRE

Why do some companies continue to grow and are sustainable over a long period of time, while others do well for some time till the founders are present and then things start going downhill?

I have been studying this phenomenon for over 30 years based on my primary research in organisation development and change management and from secondary sources such as literature. In many cases, I have been involved along with the founders in creating this change.

My findings suggest a pattern and process for growth and sustainability. Any organisation that wants to grow and become sustainable needs to create a powerful vision as to what is the highest level they want to reach or what they want to be known for. To illustrate my point, let me give you a couple of examples.

An agrochemical company that was having a turnover of ₹200 crore wanted to grow as the owner saw great opportunity. We, therefore, designed and conducted a vision workshop involving all stakeholders using a participatory process. It is very important to create a vision.

The stakeholders arrived at a new vision, which was to create a soil management company as against continuing as an agrochemical company. The decision to become a soil management firm opened new avenues such as seeds, manure, biopesticides, wasteland development, fertilisers, etc. In the next two years, the company's turnover grew to ₹800 crore.

Similarly, a newspaper company, through a similar process of engaging in a workshop, created a vision—to be the largest information and entertainment company. After the formation of the vision, they diversified into radio, television, internet, syndication of news, etc. The company has grown more than 500% in 10 years, while most of their peers have remained almost the same.

The second step is to create a powerful business strategy using Michael Porter's 'Five Forces model'. The aim of a good strategy is to stay ahead of others. A company that wishes to grow must have data of the existing competition, understand their brand strategies, and know the products, plans and pricing and so on of the competition. In addition, the company needs to know what alternatives and substitutes are likely to come. No firm can grow and sustain itself without a powerful strategy.

For example, automakers like Maruti, Hyundai, Toyota and Honda made a strategy to make well-designed, high-quality and fuel-efficient cars with minimum mechanical problems and move to BS VI quickly. They also started making preparations for moving to the electric and SUV categories. On the other hand, Tata Motors, after a colossal failure with Nano and unable to shift with Jaguar and Land Rover to electric, landed in a huge debt trap.

The third important step is to create a style of leadership that encourages ideas, innovation and agility, and engages people to contribute. Companies like Google, Apple, Microsoft, TCS, HUL, P&G, etc., which have done well over the last 20 years, have democratic and humane leaders who encourage people to do their best while being ruthlessly driven for results.

Jim Collins, in his bestselling book "Good To Great", called such heads "Level Five Leaders". While dictatorial leaders can get superior results for some time, people ultimately get tired of their oppression and get disengaged with the company.

> Any organisation that wants to grow needs to create a powerful vision as to what is the highest level they want to reach or what they want to be known for

It is equally important to grow future leaders in the company by assessing their managerial and leadership potential and providing them with transformational leadership training. Many companies such as JSW Steel Ltd. have assessed all their leaders through us and created individual development plans to help them grow.

The Government of India has the civil services cadre wherein IAS, IFS, IPS and IRS officers are selected and trained to occupy higher levels of management, and run the nation and the public sector enterprises. Similarly the NDA/IMA are continuously selecting young cadets and training them to be commanding officers and generals in the Armed Forces.

Sustainable companies like The Tata Group, Nestle, Amul, HUL, P&G, TCS, etc., have a very strong campus selection programme to grow leaders.

The fourth area that creates growth is having a great culture. Companies like SouthWest Airlines, The Tata Group, Infosys, Shell, Starbucks, etc., have always focussed on creating a great culture where people love to work and stay for years.

Many family-managed businesses do not have a great culture to work in because they do not have defined systems and processes. The company usually runs on the whims and fancies of the owner and his coterie.

A great culture can easily be created if the company has a very fair and transparent performance management system and a feedback mechanism to offer constructive critiques. The firm should be run by policies and systems, and the heads should be well trained in leadership and people management so that they offer respect, recognition and reward in a transparent and correct way.

Global research demonstrates that 81% of people leave companies because of a bad boss and 43% employees are actively disengaged. It is, therefore, extremely important to train the "boss group" in leadership and effective people management. Any company can be run well with a proper plan, policies, systems, a good leadership and cadre.

(ashoke.maitra@gmail.com)

MEDIA AS A STAKEHOLDER IN SUICIDE PREVENTION

PRAMA BHATTACHARYA
Clinical Psychologist & Research Scholar, IIT Kanpur

DR DEBANJAN BANERJEE
Geriatric Psychiatrist, NIMHANS, Bengaluru

The year 2020 has been marked by a series of unfortunate and unprecedented events globally. India is not behind in this. One such event that startled the nation amidst the everyday statistics of the pandemic and the lockdown was the news of alleged suicide of a young actor. An investigation was launched immediately to understand the circumstances of death, as is the protocol. However, the rumour-mongering that followed it was unparalleled. In no time, social media was overflowing with conspiracy theories, speculative witch hunts and verdicts from the public heavily influenced by the controversial and skewed portrayal of the "news" in the media.

All national and regional news channels during their primetime hours, social media and sections of print and digital media discussed the nuances of the suicidal act relentlessly for days with a vivid display of images, distorted psychological autopsy and finally retrospective speculations of how this might have been prevented. Every personal detail was dug up, norms of privacy were disrespected and along with the fantasised information, a plethora of misinformation and disinformation coloured the public opinion.

With very little respect to the possible mental health perspective related to the untimely death of this young man, terms like depression, schizophrenia, stress and trauma suddenly became popular vocabulary. This was soon overtaken by the conspiracy buzz of who did it. Though the media has its obligations to portray high-impact news, such incidents might potentially alter the current public attitude towards mental health and perpetuate stigma against deaths due to suicide, thus hampering the prevention of this social evil.

Besides being the traditional repository for information, both mass and social media have the power to influence human thinking, perception and behaviour. This has been particularly evident during the pandemic where the need to know has been more than ever before. But the digital infodemic due to the global snowballing of misinformation about the illness and its remedies has also increased during this time. It is not limited to pandemic-related information but pervades all facets of life.

Due to its universal effect, the media has a "dual-edged" directionality with mental health. While it plays a significant role in mental health promotion, education and service development, it also runs the risk of perpetuating misinformation leading to stigma related to mental health. Besides depiction of psychiatric disorders, mental health and mental health professionals, media reporting and portrayal of suicides might influence the public understanding and consequently community suicide-prevention strategies.

Inconsiderate and insensitive reporting, misinformation and half-baked knowledge of mental health through media depiction might generate stereotypes such as—suicides can occur only in people who are mentally disturbed, only depression leads to suicide, it is just an impulsive death, it cannot be predicted and prevented, etc. The romanticisation of suicidal deaths in movies and literature, where the protagonist is glorified for choosing to end his/her life for the greater good, further complicates popular understanding. Such a portrayal conveys the wrong message to millions of viewers/readers, misrepresenting the series of events that leads to the stress of ending one's own life.

> Insensitive reporting and half-baked knowledge of mental health due to such media depictions lead to unhealthy stereotypes.... The romanticisation of suicides in movies and literature further complicates popular understanding

The stigma generated by any form of media can affect the stressed, those who are contemplating suicide, besides the general population. It is critical to understand that a single wrong message in the hands of a gullible reader/viewer can worsen the problem. This is reflected in the well-known copycat suicides, called the Werther effect. Simultaneously, the media also has the potential to use this influence for good. Responsible and sensitive reporting of suicides and relevant facts, focusing on the risk factors and utilising them in suicide prevention, as well as liaison with mental health professionals for building community awareness through audio-visuals, infographics, etc., might go a long way in building resilience. This might foster understanding of the suicide risk and methods of prevention, reduce stigma and facilitate help-seeking.

In today's world, the media is the most powerful and influential medium that can reach a global audience. And as always, with great power comes more significant responsibilities that often go underexecuted. The World Health Organization (WHO) in 2017 laid down guidelines for sensitive media reporting of suicides that include strategies like accurate factual information, sensitive and humane interviewing of the bereaved, expert opinions from qualified professionals/first-person accounts of coping that might help the media in facilitating prevention of suicide rather than aggravating the risk.

Coordinated active liaison is the need of the hour. The classical gatekeeper training programme, where every individual is considered and trained as a possible preventor of suicide, might be enhanced by the media. Similarly, educational and motivational campaigns promoted through the media might enable help-seeking behaviour. Scientific discussions with experts need to be encouraged so that we overcome biases, assumptions, myths and stigma. Every such interaction has the potential for improving the knowledge, attitude and practice of the masses, helping the fight against the social evil of suicide.

Such an approach would ensure there is balanced reporting by the media when celebrity suicides occur. However, the responsibility of the media and the community is not post-hoc. Let's not wait for another untimely death and some breaking news. Awareness about suicides is not limited to any particular day or date. It is a universal and collective endeavour. Ultimately, preventing suicide is not just about stopping an untimely death, but also understanding and modifying the destructive processes that lead an individual to consider the grave decision of ending their life. Without this, retrospective dissection of facts and figures will do little in preventing the premature loss of identities.

(dr.djan88@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Will Pakistan ever learn?

Pakistan's sudden provocation along the LoC shows its failure in sending terrorists into Kashmir as Indian security forces have been successful in foiling its efforts. It's a country facing its due share of problems due to sponsoring terror. Why can't our neighbour try to improve its economic conditions instead of trying to foment trouble in India?

Bijumon P N, Idukki

What is there to fight for?

The factional feud in the Kerala BJP is strange. The party hardly has any presence in institutions except in a municipality and half-a-dozen panchayats, along with a lone member in the Assembly. Yet, there is a lot of infighting.

V R Jayadas, Thrissur

From darkness to light

This is with reference to *Diwali, the Magna Carta of Hinduism* (Nov 14.) Festivals have evolved across India in varied forms. Real Diwali leads us from darkness to light, from death to immortality.

Chilaka Venkateswarlu, Chennai

Avoid last-minute bans

It was great to see Deepavali celebrated joyously. Though fewer crackers were heard this time, which makes sense due to Covid, one hopes more 'green' firecrackers are burst from next year. The fireworks are not just a modern practice. References exist even before the 10th century and later during Vijayanagara rule. Imposing last-minute restrictions would strangle a truly Atmanirbhar industry.

T Usha, Chennai

Diwali and happiness

Covid has shown us that Diwali can be celebrated without the sound, fury and smog of crackers. A smile on the face of a less fortunate person is brighter than a thousand dazzling lights. Happiness comes from the goodness of our hearts and not due to external displays.

Elizabeth Koshy, Pathanamthitta

Banning native traditions

The sale of millions of cigarettes each day, the bursting of crackers by politicians, etc. are not issues, but when fireworks are used on Deepavali, it is a problem for the NGT. Similarly no action was taken against mass slaughter of animals during a certain ritual, but jallikattu was initially banned after some NGOs went to court.

S Ramalingam, Vellore

Don't troll the courts

A stand-up comedian's act of tweeting a morphed picture of the Supreme Court building with saffron colour is shocking. Impartial minds can easily see the fact that Justices D Y Chandrachud and Indira Banerjee couldn't have had political considerations while granting bail to journalist Arnab Goswami.

Geetha B K, Mangaluru

Act against baseless claims

Every Tom, Dick and Harry has started casting aspersions on the SC. It is high time deterrent measures are initiated to convey a message to those like the comedian who make baseless remarks. Else, people's faith in one of the strongest pillars of democracy will get affected.

N Krishna Kumar, Ottapalam

Trump and Tejashwi

This is with reference to how electoral fraud claims in the US and Bihar have been covered. Trump's baseless allegations have been rightly criticised (*Poll officials rubbish Trump's claims of fraud*, Nov 15). But the RJD's equally unfounded claims have been faithfully reported (*RJD to move court if EC rejects recount plea*, Nov 15). This, when even the table accompanying the report shows the RJD's claims lack merit as the party and its allies have won many close contests.

K Rajagopal, Bengaluru

Cricket amidst Covid

It was great that cricket fans got to watch the IPL amidst the pandemic this year. Congrats to Mumbai Indians.

V V S Subramaniam, Coimbatore

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
It's sad to hear of the demise of Dadasaheb Phalke awardee Shri Soumitra Chatterjee, an actor par excellence who the nation has revered over the years.

Shashi Tharoor @ShashiTharoor
A legend is lost to #COVID19, but for those of us who admired his work, Soumitra Chatterjee remains immortal. Kolkata mourns it's fav son.

Hemant Soren@HemantSorenJMM
Our resolve is to build a Jharkhand of Dharti Aba's (Birsa Munda) dreams. Today, on Jharkhand's Foundation Day, I extend my greetings to the people.

India's daily Covid-19 caseload remains under 50K for 8 days

Govt says it's a significant trend as countries in Europe, America seeing a spike in daily cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

INDIA'S Covid-19 case tally stands at 88,14,579, but the country has reported less than 50,000 new daily cases for the eighth continuous day, said Union health ministry, pointing out that the trend is significant as many countries in Europe and America continue to see a surge in their daily numbers.

"Apart from the successful dissemination of COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the varied population groups, this trend assumes wider significance as many countries in Europe and America continue to see a surge in their daily numbers," the ministry said in a statement.

Another positive is that cases per million population in 15 states and Union Territories are lower than the national average (6,387).

A total of 41,100 persons were detected positive in a 24-hour span while 42,156 recuperated during the same period. The total number of active cases stands at 4,79,216, which is just 5.44 per cent of the total cases. The last time the daily case count crossed the 50,000-mark was on November 7, according to the health ministry's data updated on Sunday.

Delhi reported 7,340 cases in the last 24 hours. Kerala recorded 6,357 new cases, while Maharashtra reported 4,237 new infections in a span of 24 hours.

> **Apart from the successful dissemination of COVID-19 appropriate behaviour...this trend assumes wider significance as many countries in Europe and America continue to see a surge in their daily numbers** —Union Health Ministry

The total number of Covid-19 patients who have recovered has crossed 82 lakh (82,05,728), pushing the national recovery rate to 93.09 per cent. The ministry said 79.91 per cent of the new recovered cases are contributed by10 states and UTs. Delhi saw the highest number of daily recoveries at 7,117, followed by Kerala (6,793) and West Bengal (4,479).

The death toll has increased to 1,29,635, with 447 new fatalities in a 24-hour span, according to the data updated at 8 am on Sunday. The case fatality rate stands at 1.47 per cent. Of the fresh fatalities, 85.01 per cent are from 10 states and UTs. Maharashtra reported the highest number of fresh fatalities at 105, followed by Delhi at 96, West Bengal at 53, Uttar Pradesh at 27 and Kerala at 26. Twenty-one states and UTs have deaths per million lower than the national average of 94, the ministry said. The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, a total of 12,48,36,819 samples were tested for Covid-19 up to November 14 with 8,05,589 of those tested on Saturday.

India's Covid-19 tally crossed the 50-lakh mark on September 16. and 80 lakh on October 29.

Ahmed Patel in ICU, leaders wish recovery

NEW DELHI: Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel, who had tested positive for Covid-19 a few weeks ago, has been admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of Medanta Hospital in Gurugram for further treatment, his family said on Sunday.

"His condition is stable and he continues to be under medical observation... We request you to pray for his speedy recovery," his son Faisal tweeted. Patel, 71, had announced on Twitter on October 1 that he had contracted coronavirus.

Several Congress leaders wished a speedy recovery to Patel. "Deeply concerned and praying for the good health of my friend and comrade Ahmed Patel. Please join us in praying for his early recovery," Anand Sharma tweeted.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, too, announced via Facebook on Sunday that he has tested positive for Covid-19. He requested those who came in contact with him in the last few days to get themselves tested. "I am fine at the moment," said Singh who is in home isolation. *ENS*

BSF personnel pay tributes to S-I Rakesh Dobhal, who died in Pakistani firing, during a wreath laying ceremony on Sunday | PTI

MEA cites Osama & Pulwama, rips apart Pak for terror charge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Pakistan for alleging that the country was involved in some of the terror strikes on its soil. Pakistan's so-called claims of have 'proof' of India's role in such attacks had no credibility, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

Pakistan's "desperate attempt" will find few takers, MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, adding that "concocting" documents and peddling false narratives will not absolve Islamabad of the taint of being a terror sponsor.

The reaction came a day after Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi alleged at press conference, where Army spokesman Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar was also present, that India was behind some of the terror attacks in that country.

"This is yet another futile anti-India propaganda exercise. The so-called claims of 'proof' against India enjoy no credibility, are fabricated and represent figments of imagination," Srivastava said. "This desperate attempt will find few takers as the international community is aware of Pakistan's tactics and proof of its terror sponsorship has been admitted by none other than its own leadership."

"The face of global terror, Osama Bin Laden, was found in Pakistan," Srivastava said. Its PM glorified him as a 'martyr' in Parliament and admitted the presence of 40,000 terrorists in Pakistan while science and technology minister proudly claimed involvement in the Pulwama terror attack, he said. Srivastava said even distant parts of the world had seen the terror trail lead back to Pakistan.

The MEA spokesperson described the press conference as an attempt on the part of the Pakistani establishment to shift focus from its internal failures and to justify cross-border terrorism, including ceasefire violations and infiltration along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Heavy artillery used

The Army and the Border Security Force on Sunday accused Pakistani troops of using heavy artillery to target their positions as well as civilian areas along the LoC in north Kashmir on Saturday, in which 11 persons died. According to defence sources, there have been 4,052 ceasefire violations by Pakistan this year 128 this month so far — while 3,233 were reported in 2019.

DECODING BENGAL'S POLITICAL KILLINGS

PRONAB MONDAL @Kolkata

THE Bharatiya Janata Party's sustained push to make inroads ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections next year and the Trinamool Congress's fierce efforts to thwart the attempts are turning south Bengal into killing fields.

Last Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had alluded to it, saying those who had failed to challenge the BJP democratically have resorted to murdering its workers to achieve their goals. "*Maut ka khel* (killing game) cannot get you votes," he said without naming the TMC.

Police data studied by this newspaper showed that of the 47 political killings involving BJP and TMC workers since the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, 38 happened in south Bengal. Twelve of the political killings took place in the last six months.

A majority of those who were killed, 28, were BJP supporters, while 18 were TMC workers and one was a Socialist Unity Centre of India activist.

The reason why south Bengal has turned into a bloody political battlefield is because this is where the BJP sees it can make inroads into TMC territory.

In the political landscape of West Bengal, there are 85 minority-dominated seats. Here the TMC has built an almost impregnable base through its Muslim-friendly policies. The BJP in any case doesn't enjoy the community's trust.

Then there are 55 seats, mostly in north Bengal, which have a substantial number of Hindu refugees from Bangladesh. In these seats the BJP has wide support. This was underlined in the parliamentary elections last year, when it won seven of the eight Lok Sabha seats.

That apart, there are 25 seats where tribals have a large presence. They mainly are in the Jungle Mahal region, where the BJP has managed to create a base. So, with the electoral leanings in 165 (85+55+25) seats of the total 294 clear, a fierce fight has broken out between the BJP and the TMC for the remaining 129 seats. As all of them are located in south Bengal, the region has turned into a hotbed of violence.

The Trinamool already has a stranglehold on these 129 seats, but the BJP senses an opening and has launched a major thrust into these areas.

"The state's history narrates a tale of bloodbath since the time it was ruled by the Congress and the Left. As regimes changed and new ideologies surfaced, flexing muscle was either justified or opposed through new, conflicting interpretations. A new political force is emerging on the soil of Bengal and the ruler is opposing. It is resulting in violence, especially in areas where the ruling party has strongh presence," said Bishnupriya Dutta Gupta, a political science professor at Behala College.

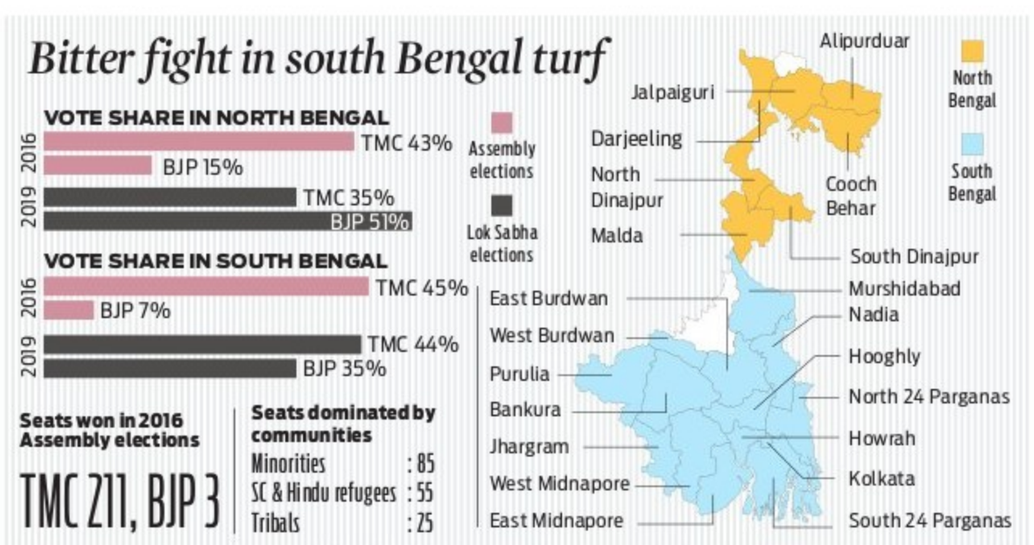
Citing the example of the BJP's onslaught in north Bengal, a TMC leader said, "In the 2016 Assembly elections, they had a vote share of 7.7% in Jalpaiguri constituency. They bagged more than 51% vote in the same constituency in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. It was simply unbelievable. We never imagined such an electoral swing could take place."

Likewise, the BJP's vote share in Ranaghat Uttar Paschim Assembly constituency rose to 55% in 2019 from 4.8% in the 2016 state polls, the leader pointed out.

As the BJP is trying to make inroads in districts like East Midnapore, West Midnapore, Birbhum, North 24 Parganas and Nadia, where the ruling party has a strong presence, resistance and violence are mounting.

TMC MP and spokesperson Sougata Roy said the killings were not always political. "Two groups fought on local issues and someone died unfortunately. The state is not witnessing the violence we used to see when CPM was in power. BJP leaders are issuing provocative statements," he said.

However, BJP state general secretary Sayantan Basu blamed the TMC for the bloodshed. "The party has realised the end of its era is near. Since we are the only choice oft he people, the TMC is unleashing attacks on us," he alleged.



SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE (JAN 19, 1935 - NOV 15, 2020)

Fans attend a funeral rally for iconic Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee, who passed away in Kolkata on Sunday | AFP

Bengal grieves the loss of its son, cinema lovers pay tributes to a legend

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

POLITICAL leaders and celebrities from across the political and cultural spectrum, cinema lovers from across the country and even beyond its borders and common people from all over West Bengal mourned and grieved as actor Soumitra Chatterjee breathed his last at around 12.15 pm on Sunday.

The thespian is survived by wife Deepa Chatterjee, daughter Poulomi Basu and son Sougata Chatterjee.

PM Narendra Modi and Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee led in expressing condolence at the demise of the 85-year-old Dadasaheb Phalke awardee.

"Soumitra Chatterjee's death is a colossal loss to the world of cinema, cultural life of West Bengal and India. Through his work, he came to embody Bengali sensibilities, emotion and ethos. Anguished by his demise. Condolence to his family and admirers. Om Shanti," PM Modi tweeted.

Mamata, in her twitter tribute, said: "Feluda' is no more. 'Apu' said goodbye. Farewell, Soumitra (Da) Chatterjee. He has been a legend in his lifetime. International, Indian and Bengali cinema has lost a giant. We will miss him dearly. The film world in Bengal has been orphaned. Best known for his films with Satyajit Ray, Soumitra Da was conferred with Legion of Honor, Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Banga Bibhushan, Padma Bhushan and several National Awards. A great loss. Saddened. Condolences to his family, the film fraternity and his admirers across the world."

Sandip Ray, son of iconic film director Satyajit Ray who cast Chatterjee in 14 of his iconic movies, said he had lost a family member.

President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and BJP chief J P Nadda were among those who paid tributes. Home minister Amit Shah tweeted both in Bengali and English dmourning his loss.

> **'Feluda' is no more. 'Apu' said goodbye. Farewell, Soumitra (Da) Chatterjee. He has been a legend in his lifetime.**
> Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal CM

The CM was present at Rabindra Sadan where people from the Bengali film fraternity and fans turned up to pay their last homage to the legend. She walked all the way to the crematorium at Keoratala in south Kolkata along with hundreds of fans who walked with candles and portraits of the actor reciting poems and singing Rabindranath Tagore's song.

As the flower-bedecked hearse reached the crematorium, he was given a gun salute and his mortal remains were consigned to flames with full state honours.

Feluda, an institution of Bengali cinema

SHILAJIT MITRA

HOW does an actor play the wind? For over half a century now, cineastes have dissected the evocative opening sequence of Satyajit Ray's *Charulata* (1964). We know the rhythms, the shots, the studied minutiae of provincial Bengal as revealed over one languorous afternoon with Charulata (Madhabi Mukherjee). But what about the twist, the turn, the sudden shifting around of fate?

This is Soumitra Chatterjee, the wild and irrepressible Amal of Ray's film, arriving in a squall to stir things up. In Charulata's life, he arrives as the unruly summer wind, ruffling floor mats and sending bits of paper in a swirl. "Hare murare...," he announces dramatically before dropping to touch her feet. When he gets up, the order of his queries is telling: "Are you reading the literary magazines?" he asks. And then: "Where's my brother?"

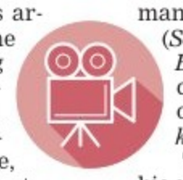
The scene of Amal's arrival is momentous: he will soon be unclasping a flurry of muted desires in his bored and housebound sister-in-law. At the same time, there's a droll insouciance to Soumitra's performance that undercuts any metaphorical heavy-handedness. Such was the relaxed mastery of the Soumitra-Ray combine. Writing in his book, *Have You Seen...?*, about 1,000 must-see films, David Thomson noted, "She (Charulata) does not quite fall in love with the brother-in-law, but she falls for his version of love..."

Soumitra, who was battling Covid, passed away in a Kolkata hospital on Sunday. He was 85. An institution of Bengali cinema and culture, Soumitra had acted in over 200 feature films; his penultimate appearance was in Anik Dutta's *Borunbabur Bondhu*. He was the first Indian to receive France's highest award for artists, the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and was the recipient of many coveted honours, including the National Award for Best Actor (2006), the Padma Bhushan (2004) and the Dadasaheb Phalke award (2012).

Though his association with Ray had ended with the director's demise in 1992 (they had last worked together on *Shakha Proshakha*), their legacies are forever intertwined. Soumitra debuted as the sensitive, unassuming star of *Apur Sansar* (1959), the final entry in Ray's *The Apu Trilogy*. The actor had previously auditioned for *Aparajito* (1956), the second in the series, but was deemed too old for the adolescent Apu. Slipping into the role now, he inhabited Apu with sincerity and heart.

The novelistic sweep of Ray's film was matched by the actor's deep awareness of the passage of time. It was a performance steeped in silences: gently folding up a letter in the rear of a tram, fuzzily turning the window on prying eyes next door.

Sublime, too, were the moments of understated beauty he created with fellow debutant Sharmila Tagore, a partnership whose tragic afterglow informs the entire later half of the film. To grossly simplify, there were two Soumitras in the Ray canon: the canny, erudite leading man of the Feluda series (*Sonar Kella* followed *Joi Baba Felunath)* and the conflicted social figures of *Abhijan, Ashani Sanket* and *Ganashatru*.



The latter also figured in his collaborations with other stalwarts, Mrinal Sen's *Akash Kusum* (1965). In between were the loving oddities: the foot-tapping fop in *Teen Bhubaner Pare* (1969), the upright teacher rescued by Goopy-Bagha in *Hirak Rajar Deshe* (1980). Another film of note was *Kony* (1986), a sports-drama where he played coach to an underprivileged female swimmer (it won the National Award for Best Popular Film).

In the 60 years of his legacy, there's hardly a conspicuous gap in Soumitra's filmography. Late into his career, he kept appearing in mainstream and new-age Bengali cinema, often playing harried father figures in commercial films. He worked with Rituparno Ghosh on *Asukh* (1999), with Aparna Sen in *Paromitar Ek Din* (2000), Srijith Mukerji in *Hemlock Society* (2012). Atanu Ghosh's *Mayurakshi* (2017) cast him as an ailing octogenarian reuniting with his stateside son. In an interview, asked if the transition into the modern age was tough for him, he terms it as "essential".

RESIGNATION

Goa Congress spokesperson and minority cell chairman Urfan Mulla resigned from his posts, alleging that the party cares little about issues related to the minority community and is plagued by lack of unity

₹7L FAKE CURRENCY SEIZED IN BENGALURU

Ahmedabad	35	19	Mumbai	35	27
Bhopal	31	17	Panaji	34	26
Jaipur	28	18	Patna	31	16
Amritsar	22	9	Lucknow	24	15
Chennai	28	25	Port Blair	31	26
Kolkata	32	19	Imphal	27	10
Srinagar	12	0	Chandigarh	24	12

Will Nitish Kumar have 2 deputies?

While Tarkishore Prasad is set to make the cut, the name of Renu Devi is also doing the rounds

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

WITH Nitish Kumar back in the CM's chair, the BJP is likely to spring a surprise by going with not one but two deputies for him. Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi, who were elected as the leader and the deputy leader of BJP legislature party on Sunday, are said to be in the contention for the posts.

Prasad himself did not rule out from the possibility of appointments of two deputy chief ministers. "I came to know about my selection only in the legislature party meeting. Whatever work is given to me by the party I will try to perform it sincerely," he told reporters.

In the midst of the buzz over the deputy CM's chair, Sushil Kumar Modi put up a tweet that read like a swansong to his political innings in Bihar where he had formed a formidable partnership with Nitish over the years. "The BJP and the Sangh Parivar has given me so much in the political life of 40 years that no other persons would have got it. I will also be discharging the responsibility that will be given to me. No one can take away the post of the worker," he tweeted.

In fact, Modi proposed the name of Prasad as the party's legislature party leader which was seconded by all the newly-elected MLAs. Prasad will take over the office from Nand Kishore Yadav as in-charge of BJP legislators, including members of the legislative assembly and council.

The 64–year-old Prasad won the election for fourth consecutive time from Katihar defeating Ram Prakash Mahato of RJD by over 12,000 votes. He was elected in 2015 from the same seat when Nitish was in alliance with the RJD and had given a tough contest to NDA.

JD-U president Nitish Kumar during the JD-U Legislature Party meeting in Patna on Sunday | PTI

Nitish — tough taskmaster, stubborn politician yet someone approachable

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

POPULARLY known as '*sushasan babu*', JD-U chief Nitish Kumar is widely considered as a no-nonsense politician who cannot be bluffed or misled by bureaucrats.

The engineer-turned-politician, who embarked into politics in 1977 inspired by the political ideologies of Jaya Prakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia and Karpoori Thakur, is said to be methodical and blessed with a sharp memory.

"Once you meet him, he will remember you by your name. He is adroit in data and scientific analysis and takes time to minutely understand a project before approving," an official said. "Before attending any meeting, Nitish Kumar has the habit of getting details on the subject of meeting. No officer can bluff him on information and rules," averred JD-U leader Vinod Kumar Rai.

An avid reader, the 69-year-old politician devotes an hour to read newspapers every morning and takes note of news to summon officials concerned. In 2019, when this newspaper had reported on the Special Branch of Bihar police spying on RSS leaders and others, Nitish, sources said, had taken a strong note and directed to the police department to clarify its stand.

> We read his mood from his tone and smile at meeting. When he finds anything not performing, he turns silent and we have to immediately fix it the problem
>
> Government official

"Officers posted on key posts in the state headquarters have a routine to be available in morning when he starts reading newspaper and speaking to them over phones," a senior officer said. "We read his mood from his tone and smile at meeting. When he finds anything not performing, he turns silent and we have to immediately fix it the problem," said another officer.

Interestingly, Nitish is said to avoid watching television — something he compensates by updating himself through newspapers.

Another feature that distinguishes Nitish from other in politics is his sense of humour. "Under whatever circumstances you are before him, he makes everyone comfortable. Even tough questions are replied in a lighter vein," said senior journalist Santosh Singh.

Beneath that genial composure, the veteran has also a '*jiddi*' (stubborn) facet — firm on his principles in politics. When he feels hurt or gets irked on anything wrong by anyone, old-timers said, he stops taking notice of that person.

"As an engineer, he decided everything about the metro railway project in Patna so minutely that many experts were also taken aback on his knowledge," said a JDU leader.

Places of worship to re-open from today in Maharashtra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

PLACES of worship geared up to re-open in Maharashtra from Monday with all SOPs in place for devotees visiting them amidst the Covid pandemic.

As per the Standard Operating Procedures released by the Maharashtra government, religious places located out of COVID-19 containment zones will be allowed to remain open as per the timings decided by authorities, and devotees will be allowed inside in a staggered manner. Face masks will be mandatory for devotees along with social distancing protocols.

Earlier this year, all major organisers of the state's biggest festival Ganeshotsav cancelled their celebrations and even the iconic Mohammed Ali Road street-food market remained shut during Ramzan due to Covid.

Sai Baba Temple in Shirdi, Dadgusheth Halwai Ganpati Temple in Pune are among the places of worship that will be opened for the people. "Devotees won't be allowed to offer elaborate prayers. Only 'darshan' with COVID protocols permissible," said a temple trust member of the Dadgusheth Ganpati temple.

Disinfection being carried out at a temple in Mumbai on Sunday | PTI

> The SOPs drafted by the govt need to be followed strictly. There is no need to take credit. It was God's will that people stay at home, and now it is God's will that places of worship reopen
>
> Sanjay Raut, Shiv Sena sppkesperson

Similarly, the Shirdi Trust will only allow 6,000 devotees per day. Devotees can apply online for the '*darshan*' besides the usual tokens from the counter. People above the age of 65 year and children below 10 will not be allowed entry, the Shirdi trust said.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government's decision to reopen places of religious worship was neither a victory nor defeat of anybody. "The SOPs drafted by the government need to be followed strictly. There is no need to take credit. It was God's will that people stay at home, and now it is God's will that places of worship reopen with precautions," Raut said.

The BJP and various socio-religious outfits had been demanding that the government reopens places of worship for the devotees.

EXPRESS READ

250 register for Covid vaccine trial at AMU

Lucknow: More than 250 applications were received for the trial of Covid vaccine 'Covaxin' at the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Hospital of the Aligarh Muslim University. According to Prof Mohd Shameem, principal investigator, all applications will be screened as per the protocol and procedure laid down by the ICMR before inclusion in the trial. The resource persons from Bharat Biotech will visit AMU in the coming days for staff training .

Order Aadhaar PVC card online for ₹50

New Delhi: The UADAI has launched a new "Order Aadhaar Card" service which facilitates the Aadhaar holder to get their Aadhaar details printed on a PVC card by paying nominal charges. Residents who do not have registered mobile number can also order using Non-Registered/Alternate Mobile Number. "The facility of ordering Aadhaar PVC card is available online and it costs only ₹50, which includes all taxes and delivery (via Speed Post) fees," the UIDAI said.

Yogi reaches Kedarnath for portal closing event

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dehradun

UTTAR Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached Dehradun on Sunday to visit Kedarnath shrine.

He will be staying night to attend portal closing ceremony of Kedarnath on Monday.

Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat, who received Yogi at Jolly Grant Airport, said the two states can become an example of development and prosperity with their manpower and gifts that nature has bestowed upon model states for the whole country. "Our relationship is like blood brothers and we can together become a model for the country with mutual cooperation. CM Yogi Adityanath has been highly helpful and cooperative when it comes to affairs of both the states."

Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh in 2000 as the 27th state of India.

The dates of closure of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri were announced last month. The portals of Gangotri shrine were closed on Sunday, while those of Kedarnath, Yamunotri on November 16 and Badrinath on November 19.

"I thank honorable CM Rawat ji for such a warm welcome and reception. I am here to pay my homages to Baba Kedar and pray to bestow his blessings upon all of us," said UP CM Adityanath.

Till date more than 1.5 lakh devotees have visited the four shrines. The numbers are low due to Covid restrictions and 75-day stringent lockdown due to the epidemic.

Earlier last month, the limit of per day visitors to Chardhams was increased. Limit to Badrinath and Kedarnath was increased to 3000 while 900 pilgrims allowed at Gangotri. The number of pilgrims visiting to Yamunotri daily had been fixed at 700.

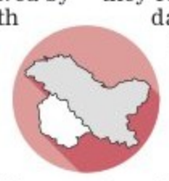
The Uttarakhand government had also exempted pilgrims of producing Covid-19 negative test report to visit Chardham shrines. Last year, over 38 lakh pilgrims travelled to the four shrines of the hill state.

Polls: Gupkar alliance, Cong release 2nd list

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AFTER three days of hectic and tough negotiations, the Peoples' Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) and the Congress on Sunday evening released the second list of 27 candidates for second phase of District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu and Kashmir.

Of the 27 seats, Peoples Democratic Party and National Conference will contest eight seats each, followed by Peoples Conference with five, Congress 3, Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement 2 and ANC 1.



However, there has been dissent on two seats being contested by the PDP. One of the seat in Tangdhar, Kupwara has been given to the party retrospectively while the CPI (M) has expressed dissent on the PDP contesting from Pombay, Kulgam.

Kulgam has been a stronghold of the CPI (M). The seat was represented by CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, who is now the convenor of PAGD.

The list was released by PAGD spokesman and Peoples Conference chairman **Sajjad Gani Lone** in the evening today after three days of hectic deliberations between the PAGD and Congress leaders.

Sources said differences had cropped up among the PAGD and Congress leaders during the deliberations over the distribution of seats with all parties demanding more share in the seats.

"The PAGD and the Congress leaders were supposed to finalise candidates for the rest of the seven phases. But they released a list of candidates for the second phase only. It means differences still exist and more negotiations will be held," a source said.

In the first list of 27 candidates, the NC had got lion's share with 21 seats while PDP got 4 and two had gone to the Peoples Conference.

The BJP also released a second list of 44 candidates for the DDC polls.

The first-ever DDC polls, along with by-elections for vacant panchayat and urban local bodies seats are being held in eight phases, beginning November 28. The last phase of polls will be held on December 19 and counting take place on December 22.

ASSAM OIL WELL

Baghjan blaze doused after over five months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THE Well No 5 at the Baghjan oil field in Assam's Tinsukia district was finally doused on Sunday by the experts, 173 days since a "blowout" — uncontrolled emission of natural gas — occurred at the site which was followed by a massive fire.

"Baghjan blowout well successfully killed: The well has been killed with brine solution & under control now. Fire has been doused completely...," Oil India Limited (OIL) tweeted.

The situation would be monitored for 24 hours to check gas migration and pressure build-up, it added.

A team of experts injected artificial mud at high pressure during the "snubbing" operation to "kill" the well. The operation was led by eight foreign experts and they were aided by the OIL's crisis management team. The OIL had flown in 60 tonnes of equipment from Canada's Calgary by an An-24 plane to "kill" the well.

The blowout and resultant inferno had displaced over 2,500 locals. They are lodged at relief camps ever since the disaster. The site is adjoining the ecologically-fragile Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

Civil society group to offer sanitary pads to Maoist women cadres

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

REACHING out to women in need of menstrual hygiene, a regional conglomeration of various groups has decided to offer reusable sanitary napkins and menstrual cups as 'Diwali Gift to the women cadres in the Maoist ranks.

It is believed that around 40-50 per cent of the strength in the outlawed CPI (Maoist) comprises women, who are seen as backbone of the left-wing extremism in south Chhattisgarh's Bastar zone.

Deep inside jungles, these women cadres encounter difficulties during menstruation period. As expected, menstrual hygiene is tough for these women in such zones.

As per an initial estimate, around 1,500 Maoist women are likely to be given the gift kit with two reusable cloth pads and one menstrual cup. However, the scale will depend upon collections raised fund gathering and support from companies manufacturing the items.

"Some voluntary organisations and the supporters of our initiative are also willing to contribute. We will try to reach out to the maximum Adivasi Bastar women, who roam inside the forest for most part of their day and engaged in the battle," said Shubhranshu Chowdhary the convenor of New Peace Process campaign in Bastar zone. Bastar zone. "It may turn as an effective move to win the trust of the women cadres by treating them as sisters and expressing care for them."

Chowdhary hopes that it could be a beginning to explore peace talks with the womenfolk in the region.

The experiment will begin this month and continue till Makar Sankranti next year.

The Bastar police was initially reluctant to agree with such initiative. "Female cadres are very active, fighting against the state and involved in violence. So we have neither approved nor disapproved the plan since the preliminary intention seems good, but there will be periodical assessment," said Sunderraj P, IG Bastar zone.

An invite turns 100

"As Lucknow University is all set to start its centenary year celebrations, a historical invite has arrested the citizen's attention. It's the A3 size invitation scroll for the foundation laying ceremony of the varsity sent out by the legendary Lt Governor of the United Province Sir Spencer Hartcourt Butler to taluqdars, zamindars and people from the royal families. "LU is the beginning of the new era of education...In the new order of things, not only will examinations not play so important a part but this new university will approximate more closely to the type of universities that flourished in the heyday of the Hindu and Muslim cultures," the long text of the invite says. It has been preserved by a Barabanki family.

LUCKNOW DIARY

NAMITA BAJPAI
Our correspondent in Uttar Pradesh
namita.bajpai@newindianexpress

Bye-bye to Chinese items

"Is it a Chinese item?" Amid the growing anti-China sentiments, this was the most common question sellers of idols and decorative lights came across as people went on a shopping spree. Sensing the sentiments, traders had shunned the usual Chinese stuff and this came as a boon for local artisans. With the UP government also promoting the products of local artisans, they couldn't have asked for more. A week-long shopping festival organised by the state-owned Mati Kala Board in Lucknow gave a huge platform to these artisans. On the last day of the festival, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath himself bought goods worth ₹30,000. Chinese idols are known for their finishing, but the same level of skill was shown by artisans from Kolkata and Jaipur.

Life of Buddha in Big B's baritone

Buddha's life came alive in Big B's baritone on the precinct of Sarnath after PM Narendra Modi formally inaugurated it last week. This 1.5-hour light and sound show would be a daily affair at the historical site, Dhamekh Stupa. The show is going to be one of the biggest attractions for tourists, say officials. "The show is a retelling of Lord Buddha's life and his preaching. Sarnath is a holy site, where Lord Buddha had delivered his first sermons," said Keertiman Srivastava, regional tourism officer. The show will give a boost to tourism and visitors will get to know more about the importance of historical monuments in Sarnath.

Covid negative report must for Magh Mela

Devotees visiting the famous Magh Mela in Prayagraj two months from now will have to present a Covid negative report through the RT-PCR test method for entry. Reviewing the preparations last week, CM Yogi Adityanath said all kalpvasis should undergo the test at least three days before they are scheduled to attend the mela and will have to produce a negative report for entry in Magh Mela campus. He said those staying at mela campus will be tested at least twice through rapid antigen test and urged those having any co-morbidities to decide whether they should attend the fair in light of Covid-19 pandemic.

1 mn
total Covid-19 cases recorded in Mexico cumulatively as of Sunday

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	18	7	SNY	Los Angeles	31	18	SNY
Colombo	30	26	TDS	Melbourne	24	13	LC
Dhaka	34	25	LC	Moscow	15	9	LR
Dubai	37	25	SNY	New York	13	13	HR
Houston	33	21	LC	Singapore	32	26	TDS
Istanbul	24	17	LC	Toronto	16	11	LC
London	12	9	LR	Washington	19	15	LR

I concede nothing, have long way to go: Trump

Tweet faux pas suggested he acknowledged his rival's victory, but soon he was back to living in denial of the verdict

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Sunday appeared to acknowledge for the first time that Joe Biden won the White House, but made clear he would not concede and would keep trying to overturn the election result. Trump's statements came in tweets that included several baseless claims about the Nov. 3 vote, which state and federal officials say was safe and secure.

Trump, without using Biden's name, tweeted that "He won," something Trump had not said before publicly, though he said the Democrat's victory was only "in the eyes" of the media. Biden defeated Trump by winning back a trio of Midwestern battleground states: Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, and topped the 270 electoral vote threshold to clinch the presidency. Biden so far has 77.5 million votes, the most ever by a winning candidate, to Trump's 72.3 million.

A rally of Donald Trump's supporters in Washingont DC | AP

The president has previously refused to accept the results of the election and he dug in again Sunday, saying, "I concede NOTHING! We have a long way to go." Even while seemingly acknowledging Biden's victory, he also argued without evidence that the former vice president only won because the election was "rigged." Trump then made unsubstantiated complaints about access for poll watchers and about vote tabulations and asserted, "WE WILL WIN!" Twitter soon posted warning labels about the tweets.

There has been no widespread fraud in the 2020 election. In fact, election officials from both parties have stated publicly that the election went well and international observers confirmed there were no serious irregularities.

Violent protests

After several thousand supporters of Trump protested the election results and marched to the Supreme Court, nighttime clashes with counterdemonstrators led to fistfights, at least one stabbing and more than 20 arrests.

Several other cities on Saturday also saw gatherings of Trump supporters unwilling to accept Biden's Electoral College and popular vote victory as legitimate. Cries of "Stop the Steal" and "Count Every Vote" rang out despite a lack of evidence of voter fraud or other problems that could reverse the result.

The demonstrations in the nation's capital went from tense to violent during the night and early Sunday. Videos posted on social media showed fights, projectiles and clubs as Trump backers sparred with those demanding they take their MAGA hats and banners and leave. Police said they made 21 arrests on a variety of charges, including assault and weapons possession, and recovered eight firearms. Four officers were injured. No arrest has been made in the stabbing, and the victim was hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries.

Trump himself had given an approving nod to the gathering Saturday morning by sending his motorcade through streets lined with supporters. *AP*

He won because the Election was Rigged. NO VOTE WATCHERS OR OBSERVERS allowed, vote tabulated by a Radical Left privately owned company, Dominion, with a bad reputation & bum equipment...

Donald Trump, US president

HARRIS' ALLIES WONDER WHETHER SHE WILL HAVE REAL CLOUT

In the iconic US political satire *Veep*, Julia Louis-Dreyfus plays the part of a mostly powerless fictional female vice president who is freezed out of important meetings. With Harris' ascension, Black activists are worried she too may become just a figurehead in the administration

NO OFFICIAL PORTFOLIO YET

■ During Obama's first term, Biden was in charge of the economic stimulus after the financial crisis. Biden has not announced any portfolio for Harris yet

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE

■ *The Washington Post* reported on Sunday that activists are wondering how much Harris will have to act on issues like racial justice and immmigration

Black people won this election. Alongside Black-led organizations around the nation, Black Lives Matter invested heavily in this election. We want something for our vote. We want to be heard and our agenda to be prioritised

Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of the Movement for Black Lives, said in a letter to Biden and Harris, *The Washington Post* said

LAST CHANCE

Failure looms as post-Brexit talks enter crunch week

LONDON

BRITISH and EU negotiators launched a desperate final stretch of trade talks Sunday, with both sides determined not to give ground, despite the looming threat of failure.

Britain's David Frost returned to meet his EU counterpart Michel Barnier after a shake-up in No. 10 personnel left some wondering if the London may soften its stance.

But there was no sign of that in the message that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's envoy tweeted as he headed back to Brussels. "We are working to get a deal, but the only one that's possible is one that is compatible with our sovereignty and takes back control of our laws, our trade, and our waters," Frost said.

"That has been our consistent position from the start and I will not change it."

On Friday, Johnson's senior aide Dominic Cummings -- one of the architects of the "leave" victory in the 2016 Brexit referendum -- resigned, amid faction fighting in Number 10, but there has been no sign this will change the direction of trade talks.

Dominic Cummings, an architect of the 2016 Brexit vote, decided to step down from his advisory role | AP

Britain left the EU in January, but the full economic effect of the bitter divorce will be felt at the end of the year.

Relations between Britain and Europe could then be governed by a trade deal,.

Frost said the parties now "largely have common draft treaty texts, though significant elements are not yet agreed," he warned.

Officials on both sides are looking to an EU leaders video summit on Thursday as the de facto last chance for a breakthrough, leaving just enough time for the EU Parliament to ratify an agreement. *AFP*

Israelis used US intel to carry out assasination of Al-Qaida's No. 2 in Iran

SAN JUAN

The United States and Israel worked together to track and kill a senior Al-Qaida operative in Iran earlier this year, a bold intelligence operation by the two allied nations that came as the Trump administration was ramping up pressure on Tehran.

Four current and former U.S. officials said Abu Mohammed al-Masri, Al-Qaida's No. 2, was killed by assassins in the Iranian capital in August. The U.S. provided intelligence to the Israelis on where they could find al-Masri and the alias he was using at the time, while Israeli agents carried out the killing, according to two of the officials. The two other officials confirmed al-Masri's killing but could not provide details.

Al-Masri was gunned down in a Tehran alley on Aug. 7, the anniversary of the 1998 bombings of the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Al-Masri was widely believed to have participated in the planning of those attacks and was wanted on terrorism charges by the FBI.

Al-Masri's death is a blow to Al-Qaida, the terror network that orchestrated the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the U.S, and comes amid rumors in the Middle East about the fate of the group's leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri. The officials could not confirm those reports but said the U.S. intelligence community was trying to determine their credibility.

Two of the officials — one within the intelligence community and with direct knowledge of the operation and another former CIA officer briefed on the matter — said al-Masri was killed by Kidon, a unit within the secretive Israeli spy organization Mossad allegedly responsible for the assassination of high-value targets. In Hebrew, Kidon means bayonet or "tip of the spear."

The official said al-Masri's daughter, Maryam, was also a target of the operation. The US believed she was being groomed for a leadership role in Al-Qaida. Al-Masri's daughter was the widow of Hamza bin Laden, the son of Al-Qaida mastermind Osama bin Laden.

Both the CIA and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's office, which oversees the Mossad, declined to comment. *AP*

ESCALATION

Tigray govt fires missiles at Eritrea

NAIROBI

LEADER of the Tigray region of Ethiopia on Sunday claimed responsibility for rocket strikes targeting the airport in neighbouring Eritrea's capital.

Diplomats said Saturday night that multiple rockets had struck the capital, Asmara, landing near the airport, though communications restrictions in Tigray and Eritrea made the reports difficult to verify.

Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed announced Nov 4 he had ordered military operations in Tigray in an escalation of a long-running feud with the region's ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). "Ethiopian forces are also using the airport of Asmara," TPLF leader Debretsion Gebremichael told AFP Sunday, saying this made the airport a "legitimate target" for the strikes.

EXPRESS READ

Peru interim leader resigns post protests

Peru's interim president announced his resignation Sunday as the nation plunged into its worst constitutional crisis in two decades following protests unleashed when Congress ousted the nation's popular leader. Manuel Merino said he'd acted within the law when he was sworn into office as chief of state Tuesday, despite protesters' allegations that Congress had staged a parliamentary coup. The decision came after a night of unrest in which dozens of protesters were injured from blunt force, tear gas or projectiles that rights groups say came predominantly from police using excess force.

French pay fines of bookshops

French writer at an event called 'Rallumez les feux de nos librairies' | AFP

PARIS

ONE of France's best-known authors, Alexandre Jardin, vowed that writers would bail out rebel bookshop owners fined for opening in defiance of a nationwide lockdown.

Lit lovers are fuming over the government's shutting of bookstores for the second time this year.

A few bookshops have openly flouted the shutdown, backed by writers, literary critics and bookworms who argue that books are essential to well-being. Jardin has rallied in their defence. He said authors would pay fines incurred by rogue booksellers.

Jardin told Europe 1 radio that Didier van Cauwelaert, winner of the Prix Goncourt, France's top literary prize for his 1994 novel "Un Aller Simple", had offered to cover any penalty imposed on a bookshop in Cannes. *AFP*

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TENDER NOTICE
SHORT TENDER
NIT No: CMRL/CON/PH-I Extn/ECV 101/H&L/2020
Short Tender No: CMRL/CON/PH-I Extn/ECV 101/H&L/2020

Tender NO:- CMRL/CON/PH-I Extn/ECV 101/H&L/2020" CMRL invites item rate Tender on National competitive Bid for CARRYING OUT HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPING WORKS IN MEDIAN OF CMRL Phase-I (Extn.) FROM CHAINAGE 2900.00 TO 6151.00 INCLUDING MAINTENANCE FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS".
Please refer CMRL website www.chennaimetrorail.org for particulars.

DIPR/4263/TENDER/2020 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (A&CM)

PUBLIC NOTICE
That my clients **Srinivasa.V,** S/o Late. Venkataiah & Manjula.V, W/o Srinivasa, Both are residing at No.14, 7th Cross, Bikashipura, Subramanyapura, Bangalore-560061, **are intend to purchase of Schedule property from its owner, S.Thandava Murthy,** S/o late C.Siddalingaiah, R/a No.176/K, 10th Main, 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010. **If anybody having any right, share, claim or objection to the proposed purchase may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting documents, within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this publication to the purchaser's advocate at below mentioned address, failing which my client will be advised to go ahead and complete the formalities for registration of the sale deed in respect of the Schedule Property.**
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Vacant **Site No.86,** BBMP Khatha No.86/86/91, (BBMP assigned as 9th Main, Palchinnappa Layout, Bikashipura) **situated at Bikasipura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore** and presently comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore and bounded on the:
East by : Site No. 93 West by : 25 Feet Road
North by: Site No. 87 South by: Site No.85
MEASURING:
EAST TO WEST : 45 feet
NORTH TO SOUTH : 35 feet
IN ALL MEASURING : 1575 square feet
R.R.Upadhya, Advocate
No.126, First Floor, 5th Cross, Vittal Nagar, Near by ISRO Layout Cross, Bangalore-560 078
Mobile : 9241102941.

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KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE STARS, AND YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND
THEODORE ROOSEVELT

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that My client **Sri. N Kuppu Swamy** is proposing to purchase the property compositely described in the schedule hereunder, from its owner **Smt. S. KUPPAMMAL.**
If any, individual, institution or any person has any subsisting claim, right or title in respect of the schedule property, such person may contact the undersigned within **Seven days** from the publication of this notice with all relevant documents supporting such claim. If no such claims are presented our client will proceed to purchase the Constructed 4 floor Schedule Property and it shall be deemed that the same is free from all claims and encumbrances.
SCHEDULE
All the piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No. 56,** Old Katha No 21 and 380, New Katha No. 380/56 dated 07.09.2010, **Situated at Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore** Measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet, totally measuring in all **1200 Sq. Feet.** Bounded on the : **East by : Site No. 55, West by: Site No. 57, North by :Site No. 23, South by : Road**
Johnson Moras, Advocate,
Sri Sai Krupa Complex, #2, First Floor, Gedalahalli Main Road, Kothnur, Bangalore-560 077

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client **Mr.MOHAMMED BASHEER SHAIKH,** S/o.Mr.Abdul Hameed, Presently Residing at # 47, Mutthu Line, 7th Cross, 1st Stage, Pillana Garden, Near B.S.A.Road, Bangalore 560084, intends to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder from Sri.N.Somashekar, and Sri.N.Basavaraj, both are being brothers and sons of Late.Sri.M.Narayanswamy, both are Residing at # 9/3, 2nd Cross, Hennur Main Road, Near Sundar Hospital, St.Thomas Town Post, Bangalore-560084, Who claims to be the Absolute Co-owners of the schedule property, having inherited the same from their father.
Any person who has got any Right, Title, Interest or claim and objections if any to the proposed sale transaction may write to the undersigned with documentary proof within **TEN DAYS** from the date of Publication of this Notice, failing which it is presumed that there are no claims, and no objections, and my client will proceed with the said sale transaction and no claims or objections will be entertained thereafter.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Residential Property Bearing Municipal Corporation **No.19/1,** Old No.16-C, situated at Bourdillon Road Cross, Old BBMP Ward No.91, New BBMP Ward No.78, Frazer Town, Bangalore.
Measuring :
East to West : 33 feet;
North to South : 27 feet 06 Inches;
BOUNDED ON THE :
East By : Munivenkatappa and Narayanappa's Property;
West By : Muninarayanappa's Property;
North By : Govindappa and Munithayamma's Property;
South By: Road.
ABDUL LATEEF KHAN
Advocate, M.A.,LL.B.,
No.16, 12th Cross, B.S.A. Road, 1st Stage, Pillanna Garden, B'lore-84. M-9845110533
Place : Bangalore Date : 14-11-2020

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F/20-21/8178-80 Date: 12.11.2020
TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)
KPTCL invites Bid against enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/19-20/EPR-85/CALL-05 Date: 27.11.2019 for work of **Providing Intermediate Tower to increase the vertical clearance of the existing 66kV Pottery Road S/C tap line passing over the premises of M/s. JSS Public School, HBR Layout, in TLM Hoody Subdivision on Total Turnkey Basis.** The Bids will be received through e-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'e-procurement-KPTCL' or to **https://eproc. karnataka.gov.in** on or after **18.11.2020.**
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Tr. (M), BMAZ, South Circle, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-09. Phone: 22386686-85

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: 506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-2/2020-21/F-50/4709-16 Date: 12.11.2020
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)
KPTCL invites bids for the following works.
(1) BID ENQUIRY NO: KPTCL//2020-21/TL/WORK_INDENT7519 for Conducting Contouring / Block Level Survey and Geotechnical Test for the proposed site of 110KV substation at Karoshi, in Chikkodi Taluk, Belagavi District.
(2) BID ENQUIRY NO: KPTCL//2020-21/TL/WORK_INDENT7520 for Conducting Contouring / Block Level Survey and Geotechnical Test for the proposed site of 110KV substation at Sankaratti, in Athani Taluk, Belagavi District.
(3) BID ENQUIRY NO: KPTCL//2020-21/TL/WORK_INDENT7521 for Conducting detailed survey using modern survey techniques for proposed 2nd 220KV LILO line from proposed 220KV Bidnal-Mahalingpur DC line (conversion from 220KV SC line to DC line) to existing 220/110/11kv station Soundatti in Soundatti Taluk, Belagavi Dist.
(4) BID ENQUIRY NO: KPTCL//2020-21/TL/WORK_INDENT7523 for Contouring detailed survey using modern survey techniques for construction of proposed 110KV link line from 220/110KV S/S Salahalli to link existing 110KV Lokapur - Salahalli, G. Hoskoti, Katkol - Itnal (proposed) lines in Ramadurg Tq, Belagavi Dist.
(5) BID ENQUIRY NO: KPTCL//2020-21/TL/WORK_INDENT7525 for Contouring detailed survey using modern survey techniques for construction of proposed 220KV DC LILO line from the existing 220KV Narendra – Mahalingpur DC line to the proposed 220/110KV station at Salahalli in Ramdurga Tq, Belagavi Dist.
(6) BID ENQUIRY NO: KPTCL//2020-21/TL/WORK_INDENT7528 for Contouring detailed survey using modern survey techniques for construction of proposed 110KV LILO line on DC towers using LYNX ACSR conductor from existing 110KV Kudachi - Terdal SC Line to proposed 110KV S/S at Sankaratti in Athani Tq, Belagavi Dist. under the jurisdiction of Superintending Engineer Electy, Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Belagavi.
The detailed notification regarding the works called through the "E-procurement" mode can be obtained by logging onto E-procurement's website **http:/www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 4:00 pm on 17.11.2020.** Other details can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer Ele.,
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi-590010. Ph 0831-2437101/2437099

TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD
Office of the Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit
Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Housing for Urban Poor Project in Tamil Nadu
No.5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai 600 005, Tamil Nadu. Tel No.: +91-44-29862122
Email: tnscbprocurement@gmail.com; web site: www.tnscb.org
Invitation for Bids No: IRSHUP/NCB/01

ADB Project No. and Title: P53067-004-IND, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Housing for Urban Poor (IRSHUP) Project in Tamil Nadu.

Contract Package Number & Name: IRSHUP/KAL/01, Construction of 900 Nos of housing units adopting Type Design No. 02/2020 (G+3) with associated infrastructure works at Kalanivasal Village, Karaikudi Taluk in Sivagangai District in Tamil Nadu.

The Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, on behalf of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board ("the Employer") invites bids from eligible bidders for the contract package named above. Bids are invited under Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) - National procedure of ADB which is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

1. Detailed Notice of Invitation for Bids (IFB) and the Bid document for above package would be available at www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.tnscb.org starting **from 16.11.2020.** Deadline for bid submission is **16:00 hours on 18.12.2020.** All required information are provided in the bid document.
2. Online & Offline Pre-bid Meeting will be held **at 14:00 hours on 02.12.2020.** All the prospective bidders are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting.
3. Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the **www.tnscb.org** web site and will not be published in Newspapers.
4. Bidders may contact Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, TNSCB for any other information on bidding process.

Superintending Engineer, Project Monitoring Unit, IRSHUP, TNSCB, Chennai – 600005
DIPR/1103/DISPLAY/2020

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RWS&S DIVISION, BHADRAK
Tel: 06784-240979, e-mail: rwssdivisionbhadrak@gmail.com
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Tendering
Identification No. 07 dt. 06.11.2020
0-544

1.	Name & Nos of work	: **18 Nos of** Rural piped water supply Scheme
2.	Estimated cost	: **Rs. 54.53 lakhs to 232.94 lakhs**
3.	Class of Contractor	: B & A
4.	Cost of Tender Paper	: As Per DTCN
5.	Period of Completion	: 06 Months to 11 Months
6.	Mode of submission	: Tenders should be submitted only online in www.tenderorissa.gov.in
7.	Period of Availability of tenders online	: 10.00 hours of dt. 19.11.2020 to 17.00 hours of date 26.11.2020
8.	Last date & time of Seeking clarification	: Date 24.11.2020 up-to 5.00 P.M.
9.	Last date & time of bidding online	: Date 26.11.2020 up-to 5.00 P.M.
10.	Date & time opening of tender bid	: Date 27.11.2020 at- 11.00 A.M.
11.	Name and address of the officer inviting Tender	: Executive Engineer RWS&S Division, Bhadrak
12.	Further details can be seen from the e-Procument portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in (https/tendersodisha.gov.in)	
13.	Subsequent modification/ corrigendum/ Addendum if required shall appear in website only.	
14.	Further details can be seen from the e-Procument portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in (https/tendersodisha.gov.in)	
15.	Chargeable Head : - JJM	

Executive Engineer
RWS&S Division, Bhadrak **OIPR 25020/11/0009/2021**

What to do with the money in the bank

A 'dash for cash' attitude amid the pandemic has led to people accumulating idle cash

RAJAS KELKAR

A lot of you have saved up. There is more money in your bank saved due to a slew of reasons. For some of you, worries about future income top the mind. For many, expenditure is lower than before amidst the pandemic. You are going out less. You are spending little or no time commuting, working from home and enjoying home-cooked meals.

The Reserve Bank of India has recently published data of household financial savings for the quarter to June 2020, the peak of the lockdown. Estimates show a jump to 21.4% of gross domestic product or GDP against 7.9% in the year-ago period. That is nearly three times more than usual. It is the highest in at least three years, according to the RBI survey.

The aggregate bank deposits in India stood at ₹138 lakh crore in June 2020, a surge of Rs 3 lakh crore over March 2020. The increase in bank deposits has continued till October 2020, and bank lending has remained much lower than the surge in bank deposits. That is despite deposit rates touching new lows since March 2020.

The survey says that there is a 'dash to cash' behaviour due to the extreme uncertainty. The currency holding on the parts of households reflects a flight to safety. You have money at home that is generating no return.

TAPAS RANJAN

Your saving over spending is creating a surplus in the financial system as banks are unable to lend at the same pace. As a result, your money is not getting deployed. You are getting an interest rate that is much lower than the consumer price inflation rate prevailing. Effectively, keeping money in banks is eroding your savings.

The survey finds that a lot of you have put money into financial assets using mutual funds due to low returns on the bank deposits. Equity assets have witnessed a steady flow since March 2020. Benchmark indices are now at a higher level than they were before March 2020.

There is also a sharp jump in subscription to insurance products, according to the RBI survey.

If you are worried about the uncertainty ahead, you may want to organise your finances better than before. Investing in mutual funds or buying insurance policies without analysing your actual need could hurt your financial well-being.

If you are still at work or get a steady monthly inflow, you are in the best position to manage your finances. The surplus you have created as a result of cutting down on your expenditure could be used to fortify your financial situation. You could get rid of any expensive debt like credit cards first. Then, focus on personal loans.

Assuming you have a surplus at the end of the month, you need not rush to pay off home loans. The thing about home loans is that it is the cheapest loan an individual can get. You also get tax benefits for financing a home acquisition. Hence, there is no need to panic and pay off the cheapest loan in a hurry.

Create a list of major annual expenses you have to incur over the next year and provide for them with the surplus. For example, your child's term fees for the rest of the year or next year or your annual life insurance premium. A yearly subscription for your satellite television or internet broadband and others.

If you have not started on retirement savings yet, there is no better time than today. One of the first principles of personal finance is that you should spend what is left after investing. It is easier said than done when you have aspirations, and your family expects you to fulfil them. However, the pandemic opens a unique opportunity where your family is unlikely to make demands due to force lockdowns. Sign up for long-term retirement savings programmes.

If you have not subscribed for the National Pension Scheme or NPS, it may be a good idea to opt for it for your retirement. Channelise your retirement savings into the scheme that is based on the 'defined contribution' principle. It is essential to speak to your professional advisor before choosing anything else.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

MONEY-WISE

THE MYTH OF DIWALI PICKS AND THE MAGIC OF COMPOUNDING

IT is that time of the year when festivities are at their peak across many parts of India. Albeit a trifle subdued courtesy the unwelcome pandemic, there is still an underlying spirit of cheer.

It is also that time of the year when the electronic media invites the usual suspects to step forth and churn out their 'Samvat Picks' of the year, quite like they will do when the next calendar year commences. Ah well, to each her or his own, and there is no harm in humouring those seeking such picks but the question to be asked is - does a festival or change of year make it necessary to overhaul one's investment strategy and compulsorily make new picks?

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
heads LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

Being part of a cricket crazy country, my oft-repeated example to my younger colleagues, clients and B-School students over the years has been - while investing, try and emulate the solidity and high consistency of a Rahul Dravid rather than the mercurial style of a Virendra Sehwag. Both were excellent batsmen and match-winners in their own right but if one had to select between the two when one's life depended on it, the likelier pick is an absolute no-brainer.

Simply put, it makes a lot of sense to stay invested in the funds or stocks one has purchased after due calibration and even top-up or add more of it if one had to, rather than keep adding new funds or stocks just because it has been recommended as a Diwali or New Year pick.

In the meanwhile, a couple of trends that have picked up at the bourses in recent times have been Sectoral and Thematic Funds. Post the setting in of the pandemic, Pharma Funds found renewed favour among investors. After being under the pump till then owing to some Indian pharma companies facing censure from the US FDA authorities, this segment has witnessed a huge rebound and increased inflows. The latest development of Pfizer announcing that its vaccine is 90 per cent effective has provided a further fillip to pharma stocks and funds.

Among Thematic Funds, ESG is the new buzzword. Such funds are built around the philosophy of investing only in stocks that fulfil the criteria of being Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) friendly. This is a well-established theme in the developed Western markets and has begun to take root in India too. One shouldn't be too surprised to witness a spate of New Fund Offerings (NFOs) in this space from mutual fund houses in India, over the next few months.

Am deferring a full discussion on the abovementioned sector and theme to my forthcoming columns, and concluding this one by expressing relief following the face-saving creation of 'Flexi-Cap Funds'. Before signing out with Diwali greetings, allow me to leave you with a suggestion - educate, encourage and support a less privileged person to start a SIP. Leave the rest to the magic of compounding.

Covid-19 individual life insurance policy now available on the market

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

INDIAN insurance market finally has an individual insurance policy that is specifically tailored to cover both Covid-19 related deaths and Covid-19 treatment costs. So far, the Indian insurance market has had the Corona Kavach and Corona Rakshak health insurance policies, which covered treatment costs for Covid patients-the first being a standard indemnity-based policy that paid hospital expenses and the latter a fixed-benefit scheme where payment of the lump sum was triggered by Corona-led hospitalisation for at least 72 hours.

However, Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance's last week launched the Covid Shield+ - an individual life insurance product with a one-year tenure. The policy is a fixed-benefit plan for which eligibility conditions do not include a medical test. The policy is also single premium, and unlike the other two policies has several features.

First, it does provide a cover for deaths not caused by Covid-19. However, the sum in this case is quite small-just 1.25 times the premium paid. The primary benefit arises from the cover for Covid 19 deaths, which ranges from ₹25 lakh to ₹50 lakh, with a waiting period of 30 days. The policy can be taken by people between 18 and 65 years with premiums as low as ₹5,500 in some cases.

The policy provides substantial cover for Covid-19 treatment too. For instance, if the policyholder needs Intensive Care or High Dependency Unit treatment for over 24 hours, the treatment cover is triggered and the policyholder can get 40 per cent of the Covid-19 death cover. If the Covid-19 enhanced cover is ₹25 lakh, the policyholder will be paid 40 per cent or ₹10 lakh.

If a death occurs within 24 hours of admission to the ICU or HDU, then the policy will payout the enhanced benefit and the basic cover. If the death occurs after 24 hours after admission to ICU or HDU, the policyholder will get the enhanced benefit, basic cover and, in addition, 40 per cent of the enhanced benefit to help with hospital treatment. The same will apply in case the policyholder contracts Covid, is treated in the ICU or HDU and survives, but later dies due to another cause.

Covid-safe investment

Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance's Covid Shield + is a fixed-benefit plan for which eligibility conditions do not include a medical test. The policy is also set to be a single premium

Cash purchase above ₹50,000? Keep receipt handy to avoid tax scrutiny

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IF you have paid ₹50,000 in cash to purchase an item this Diwali, be ready with cash receipts and records, else you may have to give lengthy explanations to the income tax department.

In a crackdown against tax evasion and to discourage cash transactions, the income tax department is keeping a close record of any high-value purchase over ₹50,000 in cash, including gold among other luxury items.

"We are keeping close scrutiny of people who are using cash for high-value purchases like gold, silver and other precious items. There is no problem if the buyer is using digital payment modes to make the purchase. But if a cash transaction is used it is advisable to keep the receipt, " a senior IT official said.

The official added that the purpose of this scrutiny is to track black money and tax evasion and not to harass the honest taxpayers.

"There is no need for honest taxpayers to fear anything. The crackdown is on tax evaders and also sellers who do not give receipts and invoices. There will be no trouble if you insist on an invoice," the official explained.

IT crackdown on tax evasion in the NCR

Over the last few weeks, in Delhi circle alone, officials have cracked down on over 50 establishments and have reported over ₹10 crore in tax evasion, by using inflated bills and wrong invoices.

The official added that in the last 12-20 days, in Delhi circle alone, they have cracked down on over 50 commercial establishments and have reported over ₹10 crore in tax evasion, by using inflated bills and wrong invoices among other means.

In total, 25 teams of the department were deployed for the raids and each team was led by an assistant commissioner, to check on dealers who were defrauding the government of its legitimate taxes. In future, the government is going to intensify this kind of scrutiny.

"In future whenever you are making any high-value purchase, insist on getting receipts against them. Sometimes shopkeepers offer some extra discount for not giving a receipt, it can land you in trouble. The best way is to purchase using digital mode. It helps us in avoiding tax evasion and also it helps in keeping tax records straight," the official further added.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

GUJARAT GAS

Current Price ₹309.45

Target Price ₹440

According to the NGT's list of severely polluted industrial clusters, Gujarat has five clusters where the volume boost (like Morbi) could come up. Any directive by NGT to ban use of fuel oil could lead to short-term incremental volume boost of 2–3mmscmd for GUJGA. The newly awarded 16–17 cities could see volumes of 2.5–3mmscmd over the next 4–5 years. We reiterate GUJGA as our top Buy, with best RoE profile of ~24-26% and expected FCF generation of ~INR27.8b over 2 years

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express.*

EXPRESS READ

Tata AIA partners with PayBima to enhance sales

New Delhi: Tata AIA Life Insurance (Tata AIA Life) recently announced that it has partnered with PayBima, the digital arm of Mahindra Insurance Brokers as a Broker to distribute its industry-leading life insurance solutions. As part of the agreement, Mahindra Insurance Brokers' PayBima.com will offer the life Insurance solutions of Tata AIA Life on its platform. PayBima will leverage its analytics skill to offer personalised life insurance solutions best suited to the needs of its many customers. PayBima will be fully integrated with Tata AIA Life digitally-led ecosystem to offer a seamless Online buying experience by eliminating the need for physical documents.

Market at record high, but wait for correction to invest long term: Experts

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

FUELLED by festive season buying and successful testing of a Covid vaccine, the BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 surged to their lifetime highs on Saturday during the special one hour Muhurat trading session to mark the beginning of Samvat 2077.

BSE gained by 280.79 points or 0.65 per cent to close at 43,638 while the NSE 89.45 rose points, or 0.70 per cent to finish at its lifetime high of 12,780.25. The broader index had touched an intra-day record of 12,828.70 during the session.

The surge on Saturday's special session came after a week of a bull run where dozens of listed stocks touched their 52-week high mark.

"The BSE-30 Index gained 3.6 per cent in the week gone by. Market mood gained the further ground on news updates of successful testing of a Covid-19 vaccine, stable count of Covid cases in India, improvement in high-frequency indicators and better-than-expected second-quarter results. Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance and L&T were major gainers while Maruti Suzuki, Asian Paints and Nestle India were major losers in the BSE-30 Index in the current week," said Sanjeev Zarbade, VP PCG Research, Kotak Securities.

He, however, advised investors to look for market corrections to buy with a long term view. "Foreign Portfolio Investors bought equities worth US$3.3 bn over the past five trading sessions while Domestic Institutional Investors sold US$1.9 bn worth of equities in the same period. We would like to advise investors to look for market corrections to buy with a long term view."

S Hariharan, Head - Sales Trading, Emkay Global Financial Services said that as the combination of fiscal and monetary stimulus kicks in along with a broad re-opening of the economy, one can expect earnings growth in a coming couple of years to be robust.

PROPOSAL

PFRDA to push for tax free NPS to all categories

PENSION fund regulator PFRDA will propose to the government to make employers' contribution of 14 per cent under NPS tax-free for all categories of subscribers in the next Budget, Chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay said. Employers' contribution of 14 per cent in pension under the National Pension System scheme for the central government employees was made tax free from April 1, 2019.

"We may propose things like 14 per cent contribution by employers to be made tax free to all. Currently, it is given only to the central government employers... So we are requesting the government to give it to all the employers, whether it is state governments or other corporate entities so that subscribers across the board can get this benefit," Bandyopadhyay said.

The PFRDA Chairman said states are asking that the 14 per cent tax benefit be given to state government employees also. He said some state governments have written to the Authority requesting the same. Besides, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) will ask the government to extend the benefit of tier-II NPS account as tax-free for all subscribers. Recently, the facility was granted to the central government employees. *(PTI)*

MORE BENEFITS

Wise to opt for gold jewellery insurance

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ Chennai

AMID these pandemic times, people have learnt a lot about safety and gained awareness about insurance. Be it your health or any other precious belongings, it's always wise to get it insured to ensure your preparedness during an exigency situation.

Like any other property, it is equally important to protect your gold jewellery and having an insurance cover for it. According to experts, in comparison to bank lockers, insurance cover offers more benefits.

Many jewellers have been offering free insurance cover to customers on jewellery purchases. This insurance cover secures the risk of damage or loss of jewellery under circumstances such as theft, burglary, during extreme events such as riot and natural calamities like earthquake, flood or storm.

The customer needs to check the bill if the product purchased was insured. Since the insurance product is not standardised across all jewellers, one needs to check the extent of insurance coverage and period of coverage from your jeweller.

Not many individuals opt for home insurance with valuables cover, but it is always advisable to go for a separate valuable cover for your gold jewellery.

If you are opting for an insurance cover for your gold jewellery, factors like the number of items, valuation of your gold jewellery and extent of coverage you are seeking for will decide the premium of your insurance cover.

However, it is very important to keep in mind that any kind of damages caused to the jewellery due to the negligence of the owner will not be paid for under the claim.

"It is very challenging to prove how you lost the jewellery so people should ensure safe storage of the jewellery pieces," said the official of an agency handling jewellery insurance.

Experts also highlighted that while buying gold jewellery components like making charges, wastage and even taxes are included in it and it has been widely noticed that people at best receive only 95 per cent of the product value during the insurance claim.

For registering claims for the lost jewellery, an FIR copy, invoice, detailed description of the incident and non-traceable certificate issued by the Police are required.

Multiple factors to influence premium rate

If you are opting for an insurance cover for your gold jewellery, factors like the number of items, valuation of your gold jewellery and extent of coverage you are seeking for will decide the premium of your insurance cover

Mir clinches MotoGP world title

Suzuki's Joan Mir won the MotoGP world championship on Sunday when despite finishing down the field in the Valencia Grand Prix he gained enough points to assure his first title. The 23-year-old from Mallorca only sealed his maiden MotoGP success last week but has been the most consistent performer.

Hurricane Hamilton in 7th heaven

Emotional Briton unable to hide tears after equalling F1 great Schumacher for most World Championship titles

F1 TITLES

HAMILTON

7 (2008, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)

(Once with McLaren & six times with Mercedes)

SCHUMACHER

7 (1994, 1995, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004)

(Twice with Benetton & five times with Ferrari)

94

Hamilton, who won his 94th GP in Turkey, had earlier surpassed Michael Schumacher (91 GP wins) at Portuguese GP (October) to record the most number of race wins in F1 history.

10

This was Hamilton's fourth straight victory and 10th of the season.

$296 m

Hamilton, by popular estimates, is Britain's richest sportsperson with a net worth reported by *The Sunday Times* of $296 million.

Lewis Hamilton celebrates the win in Istanbul on Sunday | AFP

I often say it is beyond wildest dreams but in my whole life, secretly, I have dreamt as high as this. It felt so far-fetched. I remember watching Michael win those world championships. To get one or two or even three is so hard. Seven is unimaginable.

Lewis Hamilton

WHAT THEY SAID...

FC Barcelona @FCBarcelona_es

Game recognises game. From all of the Barça family, congratulations @LewisHamilton on your 7th @F1 World Championship!

Jean Todt@JeanTodt

The most beautiful way to achieve this 7th @FIA @F1 Driver's World Champion title @LewisHamilton. With all my admiration. #F1 #TurkishGP

Jerome Boateng@JeromeBoateng

Congrats @LewisHamilton NUMBER 7!

Gary Lineker@GaryLineker

Congratulations to @LewisHamilton on equalling Michael Schumacher's 7 world titles. What an achievement. Has to be right up there alongside our greatest ever sportspeople. Stunning.

AP @Istanbul

AFTER winning a difficult race to equal Michael Schumacher's record of seven Formula One championships on Sunday, the hardest thing for Lewis Hamilton was containing his emotions.

His voice could be heard breaking as he thanked his team over the radio moments after crossing the line at the Turkish Grand Prix, while underneath the helmet the tears were starting to build up.

"All these emotions were running through me and I was trying to stop it," Hamilton said. "I was thinking about my whole career, from when I was five when I drove in a go-kart, from when we won the British championship, driving home with my dad and singing 'We Are The Champions' and dreaming of being here."

Moments after victory No 94 and title No 7, he sat in his car with his head in his hands.

"It really hit me and I burst into tears. I couldn't believe it," Hamilton said. "I didn't want the visor to come up and people to see tears, because I had always said I would never let you see me cry. I remember watching drivers in the past crying and I was like 'I'm not going to do that.' But it was too much."

Speaking a short time after his win, Hamilton was wiping away those tears as he prepared to mount the podium. "I'm definitely a bit lost for words," he said, thanking his family. "I dreamed of this as a kid. This is way beyond our dreams."

Hamilton only had one title, with McLaren in 2008, when he replaced Schumacher at Mercedes in 2013. "Dream the impossible. You have got to chase it and never give up. That's for all the kids out there who dream the impossible. You can do it."

Hamilton only needed to finish ahead of his teammate Valtteri Bottas to seal his sixth title for Mercedes, and Bottas finished 14th.

Turkish GP results (top 5): 1. Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Mercedes), 2. Sergio Perez (MEX/Racing Point-Mercedes), 3. Sebastian Vettel (GER/Ferrari), 4. Charles Leclerc (MON/Ferrari), 5. Carlos Sainz Jr (ESP/McLaren-Renault).

Big names apply for selector posts

PTI @ New Delhi

THE new national selection committee of the BCCI is set to have a profile boost, with well-known former India players like Chetan Sharma, Maninder Singh and Shiv Sundar Das applying for the posts to be vacated by Devang Gandhi, Jatin Paranjpe and Sarandeep Singh.

Ajit Agarkar, who has 231 played international matches (191 ODIs, 26 Tests, 4 T20Is), could be the frontrunner for the chairman's post if he applies. While Agarkar couldn't be contacted, it has been learnt that he would throw his hat in the ring. Sunil Joshi (15 Tests and 69 ODIs) is the chairman at present. According to the BCCI constitution, the selector with maximum international appearances becomes the chairman.

"I have applied for the selector's post. I have no issues being an ordinary member of the panel. My main aim is to serve Indian cricket. I have played alongside legends like Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Dilip Vengsarkar, learnt a lot from them," said Chetan, who made 88 international appearances.

Another big name who has applied is former left-arm spinner Maninder Singh (35 Tests and 59 ODIs). "I had applied last time (in January also) and I'm applying again. If given a chance, I will certainly like to give it my best shot," he said.

Although the system of appointing one selector from each zone does not exist officially any more, it is unlikely that the BCCI will have two from the same zone. That makes the choice from East interesting, considering that not many have a lot of international experience from this zone.

Das, a former opener with 1326 runs in 23 Tests, is a favourite from East Zone. He confirmed about applying for the post. However, with his statemate and former India pacer Debasish Mohanty already in the junior selection panel, it remains to be seen if BCCI wants two former players from the same state in the junior and senior selection committees.

There were rumours that former India seamer Subroto Banerjee will apply from East Zone but it is confirmed that he is not. "Subroto would like to continue as a coach, be it with NCA, India U-19 or India A. He is not interested in being a selector," a source said.

Kohli & Co hit the nets

PTI @ Sydney

INDIAN cricketers had their first full-fledged net session on Sunday with the squad training simultaneously for both red and white ball formats during the day.

While Saturday's first session was mostly about gym and running workouts, the players were seen hitting the straps right away on the second day itself.

Captain Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara, India's two specialist slip fielders, were seen taking catches with the red ball for a considerable period of time.

India's new pace sensation T Natarajan was bowling with the white kookaburra.He had an extended bowling session and bowled to almost all the top-order white-ball batsmen.

Global updates

Percentage of points to decide WTC finalists

NEW DELHI: The ICC will consider percentage of points earned from the contested matches in deciding the finalists of the inaugural World Test Championship (WTC), which has been affected by the pandemic. According to a report in *ESPNcricinfo*, this option was being considered by ICC's cricket committee for the first edition of WTC but a final decision will be taken this week. The report said that the committee also mulled the idea of treating the Test matches, which could not be played due to the pandemic, as draws but it was shot down.

Johnson leader after third round in Augusta

AUGUSTA: Dustin Johnson had a four-stroke lead going into the final round of the Masters golf championship. A seven-under 65 gave him a tally of 16-under. South Korea's Im Sung-jae, Australian Cameron Smith, Mexico's Abraham Ancer and South African Dylan Frittelli were tied second. World No 3 Justin Thomas was sixth on 206. Johnson, a runner-up last year's, would silence critics with a victory.

Salah has only mild symptoms: Egypt doctor

CAIRO: Liverpool striker Mohamed Salah has mild symptoms after testing positive for the coronavirus and is due to spend at least the next week self-isolating in Egypt, the national team doctor said. Salah's positive tests were returned Friday on the eve of Egypt's Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Togo. He's set to miss game against Leicester next Sunday. "He's a mild case, he doesn't have severe symptoms," doctor Mohamed Abou Elela said.

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

Bengaluru bank on depth of squad

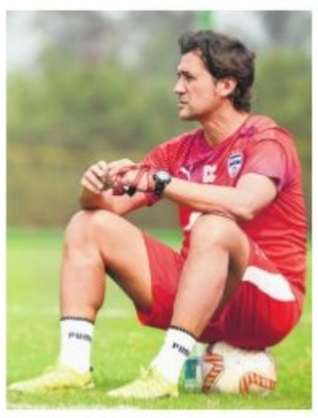
ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

THE upcoming Indian Super League season is going to be different from the previous six editions with challenges aplenty. With lack of preparations and a tight schedule, one cannot rule out players missing out games, primarily due to injuries. Hence, the squad depth is going to be more significant than ever before. But with teams being allowed to field up to a maximum of 35 players (25 last season) in their squad this season, it comes as a huge relief for coaches to dig deep when the need arises.

Players in European leagues have tested positive for Covid-19 and the teams have had to look at alternate options to fill the temporary void. The ISL, which kicks off on Friday, could also witness the same, and the squad strength will come in handy then. Teams can no longer depend on a few individuals. In fact, it could be a season, where clubs with quality depth might have an upper hand.

Bengaluru FC have announced a 32-member squad and head coach Carles Cuadrat feels the depth of the squad, which also includes players from the club's residential academy and BFC B, is going to be important. "(Squad depth) is very important. Because we don't know what's going to happen. The bubble is working very well and we are very happy with the ISL rules," said Cuadrat in a virtual interaction.

"But around the world, even with strict precautions, there are Covid cases in different competitions. So even if one of the players contract the virus, some of them have to be quarantined and you are missing some numbers. So it is vital to have all the players ready. But I'm happy with the depth of our squad. We have youngsters like Emmanuel (Lalchhanchhuaha), Suresh (Wangjam) who are all learning every day. Maybe, they are going to be useful for us."



Bengaluru FC coach Carles Cuadrat

The clubs have been involved in friendlies, which allows the team management time to implement their ideas and make their new signings understand the style of play and also check upon the level of fitness. "Pre-season games are an opportunity for new players and for us to see what they can give to the team. They will also have to understand the tactical things, which we are demanding. We are not interested in the result; it is more to do with the physical levels, and to work in tactics," said Cuadrat, who lauded the ISL's five-substitution rule too.

Christmas worries

Cuadrat believes that after a few rounds of ISL, the Christmas period could be tough for foreigners."Around the Christmas time, it could become emotional for foreigners and people, who are not with their families," he said.

Mumbai keen to shed underachiever's tag

MARTIN JOSEPH @ Kochi

MUMBAI City FC have been perennial underachievers in the Indian Super League and they have fallen short of expectations season after season.

However, their goalkeeper Amrinder Singh believes that this season, they are ready to shed their underachievers tag as the club have strengthened considerably by bringing Sergio Lobera as their head coach and signing a lot of high-profile foreigners.

"Last season, we were not able to finish in the top four but our target this time is to finish on top of the league. We want to participate in the AFC Cup competitions. Our expectation is not just about getting into the top four but to finish as the leaders. From the time the training started, it has been in the mind of the players that we have to finish at the top in the league phase," said India international Amrinder.

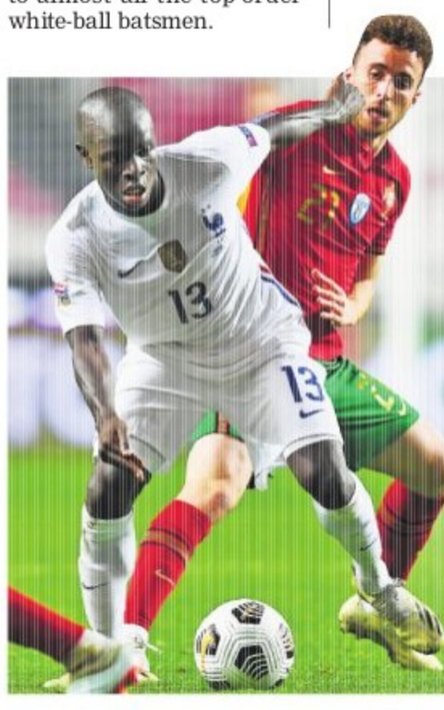
Last season, we were not able to finish in the top four but our target this time is to finish on top of the league. We want to participate in the AFC Cup competitions.

Amrinder Singh, Mumbai goalkeeper

The Islanders have reasons to be optimistic as they recently appointed former FC Goa coach Lobera while the likes of Bartholomew Ogbeche and Adam Le Fondre have added firepower up front. The arrival of veterans Mourtada Fall and Ahmed Jahouh have solidified their defence. "We all know what Lobera has done at Goa. He has a playing style that would appeal to the fans and he has specific plans on how his team should play. All the players are on board in terms of what he wants to achieve and personally, I love to play his style of football," said Amrinder.

One of the senior members of the squad, the goalkeeper admitted that it was hard being away from the game for an extended period due to the Covid-19 outbreak. "As professional footballers, it was not easy to be away from the game for such an extended period of time. But on the first day of training, you could see that all the players were hungry and motivated and had made the efforts to stay fit in their own ways wherever they were. The players look confident and the club did a good job in keeping track of the players with daily plans," he said.

The 27-year-old is of the opinion that teams which will adjust to the situation at the earliest will have an advantage. "The teams that adjust quickly will have a better start and an early advantage and it will determine where they finish. It is vital to adapt to the circumstances but we are looking forward to having a strong season."



KANTE, THE UNLIKELY HERO

The winner-takes-all showdown between Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal and France was decided by one of the least likely scorers at Lisbon. Midfielder **N'Golo Kante**, whose prowess is tackling, notched the only goal of a 1-0 win that ended Portugal's bid to defend its title and sent the French into the final-of-four.

BATTLE OF NATIONS

World champions France and Germany rode on the influence of their Chelsea stars to rack up Nations League wins on Saturday. Spain's Sergio Ramos missed two penalties on the night he celebrated a record-setting international appearance. Talking points...

SWEDE REVENGE

After losing all four of their opening games in the Nations League, Sweden found form in Solna, beating World Cup runners-up Croatia 2-1. The Swedes, whose coach Janne Andersson has been sidelined with coronavirus, were 2-0 up at half-time. Juventus' Dejan Kulusevski opened his international account in the 36th minute. Croatia had beaten the Swedes 2-1 in their first meeting.

Marcus Danielson celebrates a goal | AP

LEAGUE A

Group 3: Sweden 2-1 Croatia; Portugal 0 France 1. Group 4: Switzerland 1-1 Spain; Germany 3-1 Ukraine.

LEAGUE C

Group 1: Cyprus 2-1 Luxembourg; Azerbaijan 0 Montenegro 0.

LEAGUE D

Group 1: Malta 3-1 Andorra; Latvia 1-1 Faroe Islands 1. Group 2: San Marino 0-1 Gibraltar.

NIGHT TO FORGET FOR RAMOS

In Basel, Ramos missed two penalties as Spain needed a late equaliser from Gerard Moreno to draw 1-1 with Switzerland. The defender had previously scored 25 penalties in a row and his inaccuracy from the spot cost Spain, who will now have to beat Germany to reach the final stage.

177 Sergio Ramos made his 177th international appearance. He broke the record for an European player, moving ahead of Italy's Gianluigi Buffon (176).

NORWAY GAME CANCELLED

UEFA cancelled a game because Norway could not travel to Romania after a Covid-19 case in the squad. Norway risk a 3-0 defeat by forfeit for not fulfilling the match scheduled in Bucharest. There are clearly no dates available in the international calendar to make up the game. UEFA said it sent the case to its disciplinary committee. Case could cost Norway dearly, who will face Austria on Tuesday.

01 It was Portugal's first home defeat in a competitive match in six years. They had not lost at home under coach Fernando Santos.

02 Kante scored his second international goal in his 44th appearance for France. His other strike came in 2016 in a friendly against Russia.

12 Saturday's win leaves Germany undefeated in their last 12 games.

Authorities in China's Wuhan have found that three frozen beef samples tested positive for the Covid-19 virus, authorities have said. The batch of products were imported from Brazil to customs in the Chinese city of Qingdao on August 7. The local authorities have sealed the products, quarantined and conducted tests on relevant personnel.

THIS ALL-IN-ONE COMBO PILL LOWERS HEART RISKS

Researchers find polypill taken with low-dose aspirin cuts chances of cardiac-related ailments and deaths by 31%

MEDICINE

WASHINGTON: A daily pill combining four cholesterol and blood pressure medicines taken with low-dose aspirin cut the risk of heart attacks, strokes and heart-related deaths by nearly one third in a large international study that's expected to lead to wider use of this "polypill" approach.

For more than a decade, doctors have been testing whether the cheap, all-in-one combo pills could make it easier to prevent heart disease, the top killer worldwide. Last week's results show their value — and not just for poor nations.

"It's for all sensible countries," said Dr. Salim Yusuf of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. "If the rich countries don't want the benefit, that's their prerogative."

He helped lead the study and gave results at an American Heart Association conference. They also were published by the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

At least half a dozen companies sell polypills outside the US, including several in Europe, but they're not widely used or marketed. Doctors have been reluctant partly because no big, international studies have shown they can lower heart attacks and deaths — not just risk factors such as high blood pressure.

"I think this will change with our results," Yusuf said.

One independent expert agreed. The study is very important and "the best data we have so far" on polypills, said Dr. Eugene Yang, a University of Washington heart specialist who leads a heart disease prevention panel for the American College of Cardiology.

In the US, "I could definitely see" using a polypill in places with big health disparities and access to care problems, he said. One small study last year in Alabama suggested benefit.

The new study tested Polycap, a pill from India-based Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd. that contains three blood pressure medicines (atenolol, ramipril and the 'water pill' hydrochlorothiazide) plus a cholesterol-lowering statin. It sells in India for about ₹25 a pill. Researchers enrolled more than 5,700 people, primarily in India and the Philippines plus Colombia, Canada, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Tanzania and Tunisia.

Men had to be at least 50 years old and women at least 55. All were at moderate risk of heart problems because of high blood pressure, diabetes or other conditions.

They were divided into groups and given either low-dose aspirin (75 milligrams), the polypill alone, the polypill plus aspirin or placebo pills. One group was assigned to get vitamin D, but those results are not available yet. Neither the participants nor their doctors knew who was taking what until the study ended.

The study was to have run for five years and to have included 7,000 people, but drug delivery problems and the coronavirus pandemic forced researchers to cut it short.

After just over four years on average, aspirin alone did not make a significant difference, and the polypill alone showed a trend toward modest benefit.

However, the polypill plus aspirin showed clear value, reducing the heart-related problems and deaths by 31 per cent. About 4 per cent of people in this group died or suffered one of the heart problems being tracked versus nearly 6 per cent of those on placebo pills.

The side effects were minimal. About 1.5 per cent more of the polypill users had dizziness or low blood pressure, but they could be switched to a lower dose if that happened, Yusuf said.

Decoding how Mars continues to lose water

SPACE

WASHINGTON: Scientists have further decoded the phenomenon that led Mars to lose the equivalent of a global ocean of water up to hundreds of feet deep over billions of years. Scientists using an instrument aboard NASA's Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft have discovered that water vapour near the planet's surface is lofted higher into the atmosphere than anyone expected was possible. There, it is easily destroyed by electrically charged gas particles — or ions — and lost to space. It continues to lose water today as vapour is transported to high altitudes after sublimating from the frozen polar caps during warmer seasons, the team wrote in *Science*.

To make their discovery, researchers tracked the abundance of water ions high over Mars for more than two Martian years. In doing so, they determined that the amount of water vapour near the top of the atmosphere at about 150 kilometres, above the surface is highest during summer in the southern hemisphere.

During this time, the planet is closest to the Sun, and thus warmer, and dust storms are more likely to happen. The warm summer temperatures and strong winds associated with dust storms help water vapour reach the uppermost parts of the atmosphere, where it can easily be broken into its constituent oxygen and hydrogen. The hydrogen and oxygen then escape to space.

"Everything that makes it up to the higher part of the atmosphere is destroyed, on Mars or on Earth...because this is the part of the atmosphere that is exposed to the full force of the Sun," said Shane W Stone, a doctoral student from the University of Arizona.

Only 4% of Covid patients had 'cytokine storm'

New York: A study from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, suggests that only 4 per cent of Covid-19 patients had the "sky-high levels of immune molecules" that signify a so-called 'cytokine storm'.

With cytokine storm largely ruled out, the cause of most cases of respiratory failure in Covid-19 patients remains unknown. The researchers analysed immune cells and molecules in blood samples from 168 Covid-19 patients, 26 influenza patients and 16 healthy people. The samples were drawn from influenza patients in 2019 or 2020 and from Covid patients and healthy controls this year.

They also collected information about how each patient fared — whether a patient ended up needing intensive care or mechanical ventilation — and whether he or she survived, reports Xinhua news agency. The numbers of inflammatory cells in the blood of Covid-19 and influenza patients were about the same. Seven or 4 per cent of the Covid-19 patients showed signs of a cytokine storm, with extremely high levels of cytokines. The majority of the patients with acute respiratory failure not only did not have a cytokine storm, they had less inflammation than influenza patients who were equally ill, the researchers said.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Hermes' statue found in Athens

ARCHAEOLOGY

The head of an ancient statue of the Greek god Hermes has been unearthed during excavations for sewage system improvements in central Athens, the ministry of culture said on Sunday. The "original artwork dating late 4th century BCE or early 3rd century BCE" is in good condition, a statement said. The marble head, found just 1.3 metres under the pavement on the busy Aiolou street on Friday, "depicts the god in a mature age and is obviously a part of a herm", the statement added. Herms or Hermas are sculptures, usually of the head of Hermes, and sometimes a torso, which were set on a squared column erected at road crossings as signs.

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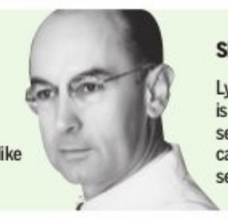
DAY'S DIARY

LSD synthesised

Albert Hofmann, a chemist working for Sandoz Pharmaceutical, synthesized LSD for the first time on this day in 1938, in Basel, Switzerland, while looking for a blood stimulant

EFFECTS OF LSD

He later became the first person to experience the drug's psychoactive effects after he accidentally ingested a small amount in 1943. The effects he reported included "restlessness, dizziness, a dreamlike state and an extremely stimulated imagination"



SIMILARITIES

Lysergic Acid Diethylamide is structurally related to several other drugs that can all block the action of serotonin in brain tissue

IN TREATMENT

Scientists have found this drug to aid the therapy for a broad range of psychiatric diagnoses. It has shown to be a promising medicine for cancer-related anxiety

Bell Bottom-2 muhurath on Jan 29

PG 4

CITY READ

Diagnostic laboratory launched

LifeCell, a stem cell bank, has launched a new diagnostic laboratory in Bengaluru, dedicated to mothers and children. As an exclusive lab for this, the new facility will also offer tests for assessment of pregnancy health inviting genetics testing and RT-PCR testing apart from other routine diagnostic tests.

Badminton tourney for doctors

To rejuvenate the spirit of doctors, Micro Labs Limited had organised the 'Micro Doctors' Cup', organised by Deka Events. All the participants were doctors. The women's doubles winners were Dr Shilpa Krishna and Dr Yashoda while the men's doubles was won by Dr Balaji Jaganmohan and Dr Shashidhar. The participant doctors said that it was a welcome relief for them to be out of the hospital and indulge in a competitive sport.

Workbook for underprivileged children

Bangalore Titans Round Table 222 and Bangalore Titans Ladies Circle 122 have created a workbook for underprivileged kids aged between 7 and 14 years. The workbooks are 50 pages each with Kannada, Hindi and Tamil instructions as well. There are some basic puzzles, number activities and word activities. They have printed 10,000 books and also procured 10-piece crayon sets to give along with each book.

AN ACTOR, A SCHOLAR, A WRITER... RENAISSANCE MAN SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE DONNED MANY ROLES TO PERFECTION

A true legend, at home and the world

Ranjan Das

When Satyajit Ray's *Ghare-Baire* (Home and the World), based on a Tagore novel was released in 1984, the Bengali audience was outraged. They hated to see their favourite hero, in whom they had invested so much love in the last more than two decades, playing the role of an unscrupulous nationalist who violates his friend's trust. In the films that Soumitra Chatterjee (1935-2020) did with Ray – starting from his debut in *Apur Sansar* (1959), the third of the Apu trilogy, he exuded a combination of idealism, sensitivity and a certain vulnerability that appealed to successive generations. *Ghare-Baire* was a new and disturbing experience for them.

Soumitra Chatterjee's association with Satyajit Ray is a part of cinema lore. They worked together in 14 films and gave us some of the best films in the annals of Indian cinema. Whether it's the idealistic dreamer in *Charulata* (1964), an arrogant city-slicker in *Aranyer Din Ratri* (1969) or the rebellious teacher in *Hirak Rajar Deshe* (1980), he managed to connect to his audience with his suavity and innate goodness, combined with good looks.

The role that catapulted him to an iconic status is Ray's popular serial-detective – Feluda. *Sonar Kella* (The Golden Fortress, 1974) and *Joy Baba Felunath* (1979) showcase him as an icy cool, cigarette-smoking sleuth who could rise beyond his bhadralok avatar to wield a pistol if the need arose.

He had a prodigious career outside of Ray films too, and carved out a distinct style that set him apart from the greatest star of the times in Bengali cinema – Uttam Kumar. Together they did *Jhinder Bondi* (1961), a period piece directed by Tapan Sinha in which he played a swashbuckling villain and held his own against Uttam Kumar. In the decades to come, he would go on to work with some of the best directors in the business - Mrinal Sen, Tapan Sinha, Tarun Majumdar, Ajoy Kar and Salil Sen.

In the 1980s, as age caught up with him, he graduated to character roles and continued to make his mark with new-age Bengali filmmakers who started making films in the late '80s like Raja Mitra, Goutam Ghosh, Aparna Sen, and later, Anjan Das and Rituparno Ghosh, endearing him to a new generation of viewers. Alongside, he wrote, directed and acted in plays that received both critical and commercial acclaim. In the '80s, he also edited a literary magazine and has several books of poetry to his credit.

In a career spanning 60 years, he steadfastly refused to work in Hindi films like his Bengali contemporaries, turning down offers from the likes of Shyam Benegal and Govind Nihalani.

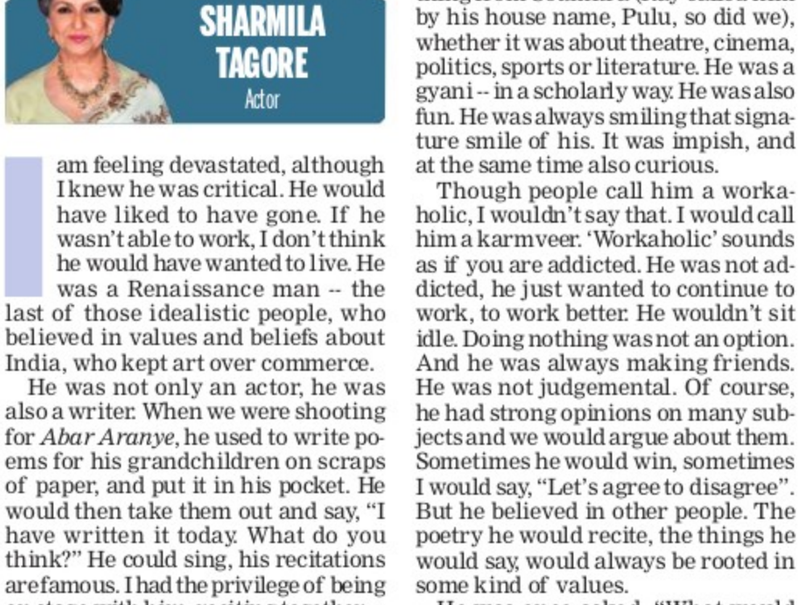
In 2012, he received the highest cinematic honour of the country – Dadasaheb Phalke Award. The French government awarded him the coveted Chevalier of Legion of Honor, its highest civilian award in 2017.

But no amount of awards could replace the outpouring of grief at his death and the love that they had for him. They will never make the likes of him anymore.

(The author is a Mumbai-based film-maker and writer)

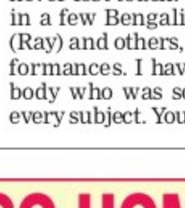
IN REMEMBRANCE

Soumitra Chatterjee (1935-2020)



A still from the film *Apur Sansar*

A GYANI AND A KARMVEER



SHARMILA TAGORE
Actor

I am feeling devastated, although I knew he was critical. He would have liked to have gone. If he wasn't able to work, I don't think he would have wanted to live. He was a Renaissance man -- the last of those idealistic people, who believed in values and beliefs about India, who kept art over commerce.

He was not only an actor, he was also a writer. When we were shooting for *Abar Aranye*, he used to write poems for his grandchildren on scraps of paper, and put it in his pocket. He would then take them out and say, "I have written it today. What do you think?" He could sing, his recitations are famous. I had the privilege of being on stage with him, reciting together.

We did not interact on a day-to-day basis, but I knew that he was fond of me, and he knew that I was fond of him. We met at such an impressionable age, he was 10 years older. I was barely a teen. We worked together in our first film in 1959, and that film (Satyajit Ray's *Apur Sansar/The World of Apu*) with its romance, caught everybody's imagination. Apu and Aparna have gone into the collective memory of generations.

I, later, moved to Bombay, but we never lost touch. We worked together in a few Bengali films, of Manikda (Ray) and others, or we did stage performances. I have never seen somebody who was so well informed on every subject. You always learnt something from Soumitra (Ray called him by his house name, Pulu, so did we), whether it was about theatre, cinema, politics, sports or literature. He was a gyani -- in a scholarly way. He was also fun. He was always smiling that signature smile of his. It was impish, and at the same time also curious.

Though people call him a workaholic, I wouldn't say that. I would call him a karmveer. 'Workaholic' sounds as if you are addicted. He was not addicted, he just wanted to continue to work, to work better. He wouldn't sit idle. Doing nothing was not an option. And he was always making friends. He was not judgemental. Of course, he had strong opinions on many subjects and we would argue about them. Sometimes he would win, sometimes I would say, "Let's agree to disagree". But he believed in other people. The poetry he would recite, the things he would say, would always be rooted in some kind of values.

He was once asked, "What would you take with you when you go?" and he said: "Books". When asked which books, he said, *Gitabitan,* Tagore's song book, and *Mahabharat.* Then he said, "I have changed my mind. I will take *Gitabitan* because without that I cannot be, and I would take *Abol Tabol* (The Weird and the Absurd)." We all grew up on *Abol Tabol*, a collection of nonsense rhyme by Satyajit Ray's father, Sukumar Ray. So you could see he believed in having fun, flowing with the times, in not wanting to know so much as living in the moment.

I will miss him. I could have learnt much more from him. But he has left us with so much. It will continue to give me pleasure, and pain.

(As told to Pallavi Srivastava)

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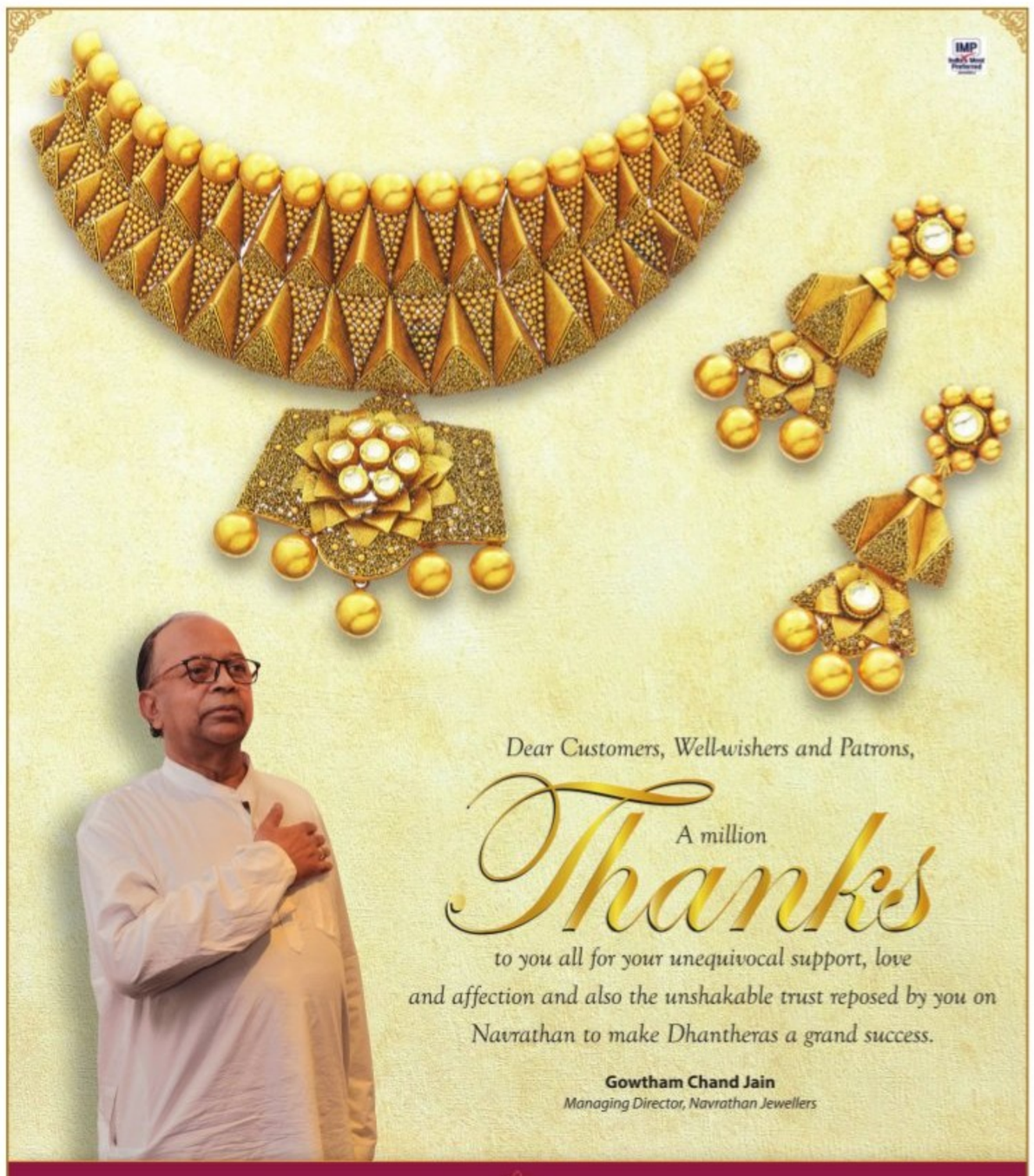
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MUSIC FEST

Bacardi Nh7 Weekender will go digital this year. The 2-day festival, on December 5 and 6, will feature a diverse lineup, including popular names in music like Prateek Kuhad, Lifafa, Taba Chake, Vidya Vox, The Lumineers and Raja Kumari. Tickets **available on** insider.in

GOLD SHOTS

Here's something fun to try this season. Enjoy festive shots of vodka, lime juice and a touch of gold at Social.
Where: Social outlets across the city at Indiranagar, Koramangala, Church Street, Whitefield and Sarjapur
When: Available till Nov. 21

POETRY WORKSHOP

Learn more about poetry, imagery, metaphors and more at this workshop by performance poet Megha Rao on November 20 at 5pm. Tickets **available on** insider.in

VIRTUAL SIGN LANGUAGE

Take part in this online event where you can learn the Indian sign language through a fun interactive activity.
When: Nov. 21, 11am
Where: Check dialogues.space for details

LUXURY TABLEWARE Kaunteya introduces their festive collection — Pichwai having paintings of Nathdwara and beautified with 24k gold. **For details, visit:** kaunteya.in

Festive offers

Inorbit Mall, Whitefield has come up with a 'Scratch and Win' offer where the followers of the Mall's Instagram page can scratch and win exclusive vouchers for various brands.
Where: Inorbit Mall, Whitefield **When:** Till Nov. 30

Mindfulness workshop

Take part in this 4-week long course on mindfulness, by Dr. Saroj Dubey, a gastroenterologist and mindfulness practitioner. Learn about mindful eating, listening, dealing with stress and anxiety, thoughts and emotions. **When:** Nov. 28 - Dec. 19 **Where:** Check Insider.in for tickets

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Minimalistic with Melorra

Go minimalist with jewellery this season with Melorra. This Lilac Palette Gold Pendant is a high-polish yellow gold pendant that has two drop motifs placed vertically with two curl strands enamelled in lilac. Price: ₹22,421.
Available at: https://www.melorra.com/gold-pendants/lilac-palette-gold-pendants_product_11046_22/

The latest from Evoluzione

Evoluzione presents designer Anamika Khanna's latest designs. Her new collection transmits a crisp and clear message that "Everything is AK-OK." It showcases a versatile range of bomber jackets, sweatshirts, kaftans, kimonos, and wraps with intricate stitching and printing it into the borders, linings, and prints of each garment. **For details, call:** 9500028810 or 9884265292

Let that go to your head!

Explore Joey & Pooh's wide range of hair accessories, handcrafted with intricate embroideries and beaded with quirky motifs that compliment any outfit with versatility. A perfect addition to any ensemble in your everyday life, be it basic work-from-home meeting, an extravagant festive soirée or a beach holiday. Priced from ₹2,000 onwards. **For details, visit:** www.joeyandpooh.com

Made for monochrome

Wrangler's Monochrome collection features a fresh outlook on tees and shirts with asymmetrical designs, HD prints, reflective prints and accentuated blurred print styles. The men's denim range stars reflective elements and pocket detailing. The Monochrome collection plays with blacks, greys and whites and it adds an edge to your wardrobe. This range is exclusively designed to make a statement in the day or light up the night. **Available at:** all exclusive Wrangler stores

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

CARROT BRIYANI

INGREDIENTS

- **Grated carrot:** 100 g
- **Basmati rice:** 100 g
- **Bay leaf, Cardamom, Cloves, Green chilli:** 2
- **Cinnamon:** 1-inch piece
- **Ginger-garlic paste:** 1 tsp
- **Turmeric powder:** 1/4 tsp
- **Garam masala:** 1/2 tsp
- **Oil:** 2 tsp
- **Onion:** 1
- **Mint, curry leaf:** a few sprigs
- **Lemon juice:** 1/2 tsp
- **Salt** to taste

METHOD

- Soak the rice for 30 minutes.
- Heat a pressure cooker. Pour 2 tbsp oil and add all the spices. When the spices begin to crackle, add onion and chilli, and saute until the onion turns brown. Add ginger-garlic paste and saute for two minutes.
- Add grated carrot and turmeric powder, and cook for three minutes. Add garam masala, mint and curry leaves, salt, 150 ml water, and rice. Pressure cook for three whistles.
- Add lemon juice and ghee for better taste.

— Sundari Ghandhi, Chennai

FIT BIT

UTTHITA LOLASANA

(SWINGING THE UPPER BODY POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'utthita' means 'extended' or 'stretched', 'lol' means 'fickle', 'trembling' or 'dangling', and 'asana' means 'pose'. This is otherwise known as 'swinging while standing' or 'dangling while standing' pose. It is a Hatha yoga pose, providing a variation of the more advanced Lolasana (in which the dangling of the body is supported by the arms rather than the legs). It is a stimulating and energising asana, improving stability and flexibility in the back and hips. You keep your body loose, and your rhythmic swinging movement is synchronised with the movement of the diaphragm and the breath. It stimulates the energy of the entire body, deepens the breath and stimulates blood circulation.

STEPS

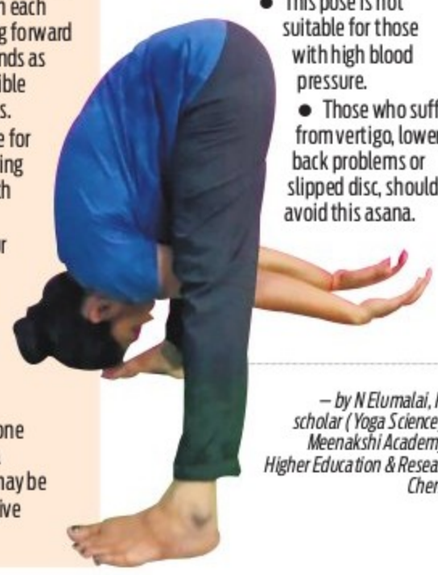
- Stand with your feet wider than the hips (about 1-metre apart).
- In this position, inhale and lift your arms above your head. Your elbows should be straight, but the wrists bent so that the hands hang limp.
- Exhale and bend your upper body forward, hinging from your hips while keeping your legs stable. Swing your trunk so that your head and arms dangle through the legs.
- With each inhalation, lift your upper body parallel to the floor. With each exhalation swing forward to bring your hands as far back as possible between the legs.
- You can continue for ten swings, moving rhythmically with the breath.
- Inhale to lift your body back to an upright position, and exhale to release the arms down.
- This completes one round of Utthita Lolasana. This may be repeated up to five times.

BENEFITS

- Extremely energizing, removes tiredness, improves circulation and stimulates the spinal nerves.
- Regular practise of this asana stretches the hamstrings and muscles of the lower back.
- An excellent pre-pranayama practise as it opens up all the alveoli and helps drainage of stagnant mucus.
- Beneficial for deepening the breath.
- If you do regular practice, the blood circulation in the body would be stimulated.
- By doing this asana regularly, you can strengthen your body.

LIMITATIONS

- This pose is not suitable for those with high blood pressure.
- Those who suffer from vertigo, lower back problems or slipped disc, should avoid this asana.



— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

NAAN CURRY

MasterChef India finalist Sadaf Hussain and researcher Archit explore the rich heritage of food in India — one dish at a time. The conversation is seasoned with anecdotes and gives a historical perspective on the evolution of food in India.
- On Spotify

MONEYCONTROL PODCAST

The Moneycontrol Podcast is your daily source of business news, investment analysis and advise on stocks and the market. Tune in to broaden your horizons with podcasts by journalists, experts and analysts giving you a headstart in the investment game.
- On Spotify

THE RANVEER SHOW

The podcast dives deep into some of the world's most intelligent, successful minds in order to mine out the diamonds they've created in their lives. Expect Bollywood stars, athletes, entrepreneurs and all kinds of motivational human beings share their inspiring stories.
- On Apple Podcasts

MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Jason Weiser tells stories from myths, legends, and folklore that have shaped cultures. All the stories are sourced from world folklore, but retold for modern ears. These are stories of wizards, knights, Vikings, dragons, princesses, and kings from the time when the world beyond the map was a dangerous and wonderful place.
- On Apple Podcast

VEDANTA TALKS

These are talks given by Swami Sarvapriyananda at the Vedanta Society of New York (founded by Swami Vivekananda in 1894). Based on the Vedas, the sacred scriptures of India, Vedanta affirms the oneness of existence, the divinity of the soul, and the harmony of religions.
- On Apple Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

KENDASAMPIGE

Ravi, an attendant, has a love affair with Gowri, the daughter of the owner of his company. A set of events leads to him being jailed over a narcotic case. But he manages to flee with Gowri's help.
- Cast: Vikky Varun, Manvitha Harish

YAARE KOOGADALI

Kumara and Natesha escape from a mental hospital and come to the city. They are soon chased by a gangster while their actual truth is revealed.
- Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Bhavana

MYTHRI

Siddarama is one step away from winning a sum of ₹one crore in a game show hosted by his favourite actor Puneeth Rajkumar. However, scientist Mahadev Godke attempts to ruin his plans.
- Cast: Mohanlal, Puneeth Rajkumar

IVAN VERA MATHIRI

Guna kidnaps Eeswaran, brother of a minister for orchestrating violence among students. After being released, Eeswaran trails after Guna to exact his revenge.
- Cast: Vikram Prabhu, Surbhi Puranik, Vamsi Krishna, Ganesh Venkataraman

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 MAKING SENSE OF IRRATIONAL NUMBERS BY GANESH PAI

Like many heroes of Greek myths, the philosopher Hippasus was rumored to have been mortally punished by the gods. But what was his crime? Did he murder guests or disrupt a sacred ritual? No, Hippasus's transgression was mathematically proving the hitherto unprovable. Ganesh Pai describes the history and math behind irrational numbers.

2 IF SUPERPOWERS WERE REAL: SUPER SPEED BY JOY LIN

What if super speed wasn't just the stuff of epic comic book stories? Is it scientifically possible to be super speed? In this series, Joy Lin tackles six superpowers and reveals just how scientifically realistic they can be to us mere mortals.

3 WHEN TO TAKE A STAND — AND WHEN TO LET IT GO BY ASH BECKHAM

Ash Beckham recently found herself in a situation that made her ask: who am I? She felt pulled between two roles — as an aunt and as an advocate. Each of us feels this struggle sometimes, she says — and offers bold suggestions for how to stand up for your moral integrity when it isn't convenient.

4 INGENIOUS HOMES IN UNEXPECTED PLACES BY IWAN BAAN

In the center of Caracas, Venezuela, stands the 45-story "Tower of David," an unfinished, abandoned skyscraper. But about eight years ago, people started moving in. Photographer Iwan Baan shows how people build homes in unlikely places.

5 WHICH COUNTRY DOES THE MOST GOOD FOR THE WORLD? BY SIMON ANHOLT

It's an unexpected side effect of globalization: problems that once would have stayed local now have consequences worldwide. But still, countries operate independently. Policy advisor Simon Anholt has dreamed up an unusual scale to get governments thinking outwardly.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

LAW (Kannada)

Nandhini, a law student who is caught in a precarious situation fights for justice for a gruesome crime that took place.
- Cast: Ragini Prajwal, Mukhyamantri Chandru, Sudharani
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹129 per month

LAXMII (Hindi)

The film deals with a ghost seeking vengeance for being wronged and haunts everyone who is staying in the house.
Cast: Akshay Kumar, Kiara Advani, Sharad Kelkar, Tusshar Kapoor
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

LUDO (Hindi)

From a resurfaced sex tape to a rogue suitcase of money, four wildly different stories overlap at the whims of fate, chance and one eccentric criminal.
Cast: Abhishek Bachchan, Rajkummar Rao, Sanya Malhotra, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Aditya Roy Kapur
- Watch on: Netflix

SOORARAI POTTRU (Tamil)

Based on a true story, Soorarai Pottru talks about Maara, the son of a teacher who sets out to fulfill the common man`s flying dream by making a low-cost airline.
Cast: Suriya, Aparna Balamurali, Urvashi, Mohan Babu
- Watch on: Amazon Prime

BHEEMASENA NALAMAHARAJA (Kannada)

A pinch of love, a dollop of happiness with a scoop of togetherness. Join this cook on a flavorsome journey of love, loss and friendship. When tragedy sizzles through his life, it is to see if he can save the dish and toss a sweet ending.
Cast: Aarohi Narayan, Arvind Iyer, Achyuth Kumar
- Watch on: Amazon Prime

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

CHHALAANG (Hindi)

Montu is a typical PT Master for whom it's just a job. When circumstances put everything that Montu cares for at stake, including Neelu, who he loves, Montu is forced to do what he has never done — teach.
Cast: Rajkummar Rao, Nushrat Bharucha, Mohammed Zeesha Ayub, Saurabh Shukla
- Watch on: Amazon Prime

KA PAE RANASINGAM (Tamil)

The politics of land and the plight of farmers. Vijay helps poor farmers in their fight against the industries that have acquired their lands.
Cast: Vijay Sethupathi, Aishwarya Rajesh, Yogi Babu, Samuthirakanni
- Watch on: Zee5

ENGLISH

THE CROWN (Series)

The series follows the political rivalries and romance of Queen Elizabeth II's reign and the events that shaped the second half of the twentieth century.
Cast: Olivia Colman, Tobias Menzies, Josh O'Connor, Emma Corrin
- Watch on: Netflix

MY SISTER'S KEEPER

Anna, a young girl, seeks a lawyer's help to earn medical emancipation from her parents when they force her to donate organs, blood and tissue to her leukaemia-stricken elder sister and help her live.
Cast: Abigail Breslin, Cameron Diaz, Sofia Vassillieva, Alec Baldwin
- Watch on: Netflix

THE PROFESSOR

Richard Brown, an English professor, is diagnosed with an advanced stage of cancer but he decides to not let the illness get the best of him and lives his life to the fullest.
Cast: Johnny Depp, Zoey Deutch, Rosemarie DeWitt, Danny Huston
- Watch on: Amazon Prime

CAPTIVE STATE

After 10 years of extraterrestrial occupation, residents of Chicago must decide whether to continue to live under alien rule or support the resistance. When young Gabriel Drummond joins the insurgency, he soon finds himself under careful scrutiny from a shadowy figure who's trying to crush the rebellion and its plans for freedom.
Cast: John Goodman, Vera Farmiga, Ashton Sanders, Jonathan Majors
- Watch on: Amazon Prime

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Amazon Prime: ₹129 per month
Zee5: ₹99 per month
Netflix: ₹199 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹399 per year

RUBINATIONS
RUBI CHAKRAVARTI

A NEW ORDER DAWNS

Hola, fellow citizens!

Everybody I know in namma ooru is suffering from a sense of Cardi-V fatigue. Either they are convincing themselves (with a mad glint in their eye) that 'now there's nothing to worry about, macha' or they have started venturing out, tentatively dipping their toes in the water, sticking their heads out like turtles and generally surveying the scene. The second lot is constantly scanning their Aarogya Setu apps or better still, consulting their WhatsApp gobble-de-gook, trying desperately to decipher between the riff and the raff. I fall between these two categories. You can say, I slip between the cracks. I desperately want to show bravado and on the other hand, my heartbeats seem to rapidly increase every time I catch a lout using his or her face mask everywhere else but on their face!

Boondi laddoo-mixing with Oakwood general manager Wajeed Bagwan

A couple of girlfriends and yours truly steeled ourselves into meeting up and going to the Thai restaurant Bo-Tai, in the posh environs of the CBD Area. Mind you, this wasn't an impromptu meet-up like the good old days. This was a carefully planned military manoeuvre. Time, date and venue were carefully picked out, reservations were made and most importantly, dresses and masks were colour coordinated! In this 'new order' (new normal is verrrry passe), there are strict dress codes. No one glances towards one's shoes anymore. On Zoom calls one can wear well-worn bathroom flip flops without a qualm, but when one ventures out. your mask should be on point! You can actually see 'the-unkind' snigger and titter (our erstwhile men-folk included), when one makes a mask faux-pas. I have heard unkind jibes like, "OMG! What was she wearing? It looks like she draped her entire curtain collection on her face" or "Seriously! Is that a mask or her Victoria Secret undergarment". Boy! Was I happy I wasn't at the receiving end of that V V (viper venom).

The whole experience of a lazy afternoon lunch was sublime. Close friends catching up, talking, laughing and being pampered by Bo-Tai's chef Arup Katkai. All the dishes were steamed and delicately flavoured, but without doubt his hand-made noodles with Asian Bolognese and his Truffle-scented chicken dim-sums in a gentle Tom Yum sauce were the clear winners. It is admirable how most hotels and restaurants are trying to woo back their diffident customers by adhering to a strict policy of sanitising, masking up and physical distancing. Of course, as a race we like to cozy up to each other and I'm pretty sure, the acronym FOMO was made for us. The fear of another Indian person, doing, saying, eating or feeling something without another Indian person hanging on to every nuance is almost sacrilegious!

There is so much and no more that concerned establishments can do. the rest we must comply with. I shame people who don't wear masks (unmask them so to speak), and many times have sometimes actually joined my hands to belligerent people and it has always worked. So, it was with a great sense of disappointment that I walked into the lobby of this 'star' hotel plonk in middle of the CBD area and found the senior personnel of the hotel all unmasked, sitting and chatting right under a sign in their hotel that said wearing of masks was mandatory! This was the second time and I have complained to their head office before. For shame!

I happily togged up again (I've forgotten how to use make-up!), and meandered to Oakwood Hotel to participate in a boondi laddoo-making session for Deepavali instead of the usual archaic 'cake-mixing'. Great fun was had by the small niche crowd and protocols were strictly adhered to. It was great to see people laughing as their eyes crinkled behind their masks. Truly a New Order.

Be safe, be kind.

Chef Arup Katkai with Sapna T and Susan F

Aindrita Ray

ALL FOR PUPPY LOVE

Celebrities in the city take it upon themselves to help strays animals find a new home

Monika Monalisa

What are your social media updates about these days? While posts on food, fashion trends and memes flood the apps, city-based celebs are using the medium for a good cause -- getting the strays around their homes adopted. For example, Aindrita Ray, who has always been vocal about caring for stray animals on her Instagram, has been trying to find a home for the abandoned puppies around her home.

Ray says, "I was fostering four puppies for the last three weeks when I found another litter of six puppies stuck in a drain during the rains. We made a small shelter for them and gave them food regularly." The actor has got two of them adopted. It would have been easier for her to find a shelter home for them but she decided to take the responsibility on herself. "Shelter homes are full.

Samyukta Hornad

I don't think the animal birth control programme run by the municipality has been done right. People should be responsible and get the animals neutered," explains Ray, who recently adopted an injured puppy, who she named Vanilla.

Writer Anuja Chauhan echoes thoughts similar to Ray's. She was fostering six puppies -- three female and three male, out of which two have been adopted. "When the puppies were found, I took it upon myself to look after them," says

Anuja Chauhan

Chauhan, who herself adopted an indie "from the gutter" on January 26 and named it Chhabbis. Chauhan says initially all the three male puppies were adopted but later one of them fell sick so it came back home but now she is on a mission to find homes for all four of them, especially the girls. Chauhan also got the mother of the puppies neutered. "We call the mother Amma and got her neutered at Diksha pet clinic for just ₹1,000. It's a myth that these kind of drives cost much," says Chauhan, who is busy babysitting the puppies.

While Ray and Chauhan are leaving no stone unturned for their adoption drive, actor Samyukta Hornad recently released a song called Tsunami to promote the adoption of indies. "It's nice of see indie adoption become a trend. So many known people have come forward to support the cause. When they post a picture of themselves with their pet, it also influences so many other people. The first pet I ever adopted was an indie and I named him Gunda, unfortunately he passed away five years ago," says Hornad, who has also come up with various drives to raise funds for neutering and vaccination of stray puppies.

Theatre actors come together for project that shuns digital space

6 actors, one voice

Avantika Gautam

Express Features

The digital space may have made the world a smaller place, but theatre artistes still look at the physical stage to derive the satisfaction of emoting. Now, six city-based theatre artistes have come together for a project called Play at Yourspace, where they shun the digital space to perform live for smaller audiences of 18-20 people every weekend. The project that they are working on currently is An Aurat Alone, a series of 20 monologue one-act plays, originally written by Italian playwright-actor Dario Fo and his wife Franca Rame, which has been adapted to reach out to the Indian audience. They are presently sticking to weekend shows and invite-only performances.

The monologues speak about the bias that women go through in the society. Though written decades ago, the topics are still relevant in today's times, says Shikha Chowhan, one of the artistes. "All the performing artistes are women and the topic was very close to us. We have been working on this project for seven months. Doing it in a digital space would not have done justice to it," says Chowhan, adding that the actors were allowed to pick monologues that they related to the most.

To personalise the plays further, they are also doing it in their respective local languages – Gujarati, Tamil, Hindi, Bihari and Marwari.

"We didn't want language to be a constraint. Sometime, it's your mother tongue that you would be the most comfortable in to express your feelings," adds Chowhan.

The other reason for performing in a physical space is to bring attention to struggling artistes during the pandemic. "It's heartbreaking to see their condition. In order to support them, we do take open contributions so that we can hire more members for the team," adds Chowhan.

"All the performing artistes are women and the topic was very close to us. We have been working on this project for seven months. Doing it in a digital space would not have done justice to it
—Shikha Chowhan, artiste

Game face on

KL Rahul seems to be an ace player in more games than one. The Kings XI Punjab wicket keeper posted a picture of him playing UNO on Instagram. The cricketer has an amused look on his face. We wonder if those are the winning cards! He said, "Miss uno nights" while tagging some of the his friends, which also included his 'special friend' Athiya Shetty. Earlier this month, Rahul had shared a cute picture of him and Shetty to wish the actress on her birthday by calling her a 'mad child'.

A cross-cultural celebration

Express Features

Is it possible to celebrate the festival season safely, using the virtual platforms but making the experience a real one? The Consulate General of France, along with French company Elior India, came up with the idea of 'Bon Diwali'. The experimental Indian-French gathering was the outcome of a conversation between Consul General of France Dr Marjorie Vanbaelinghem and Sanjay Kumar, CEO and MD, Elior India, a catering firm.

The event, held on Thursday, saw the invitees share some wine and fusion French-Indian food prepared by chef Prabhakar Nagaraj. The idea was, as Vanbaelinghem said, "to give those regular video calls some more flavour". The guest list comprised people who she would have invited to a private dinner party -- "friends and friends of friends, French and Indian firms' CEOs, as well as writers and food critiques" -- including Biocon India CMD Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw; Technicolor India country head Biren Ghose; Anurag Gupta, director, Azim Premji Foundation; restaurateur Manu Chandra; and writer Shoba Narayan.

The menu was a cross-cultural essence, along with wine bottles, at the home of the guests invited for the virtual celebration. It comprised dishes like green asparagus with lime and sweet-pepper vinaigrette, parmesan shavings, avocado mousse, sautéed shrimps, pickled pears, spinach and camembert quiche, tandoori chicken quiche, cilantro pesto, cherry tomato beurre blanc, kadai paneer pithivier, roasted provençale vegetables, lamb loin crusted with black pepper and parsley, tarte aux pommes with khandsari sugar, baba au rhum and rose petal rabdi.

This was paired with a selection of wines from the cellar of the Consul General. The first one, a venerable Haut Medoc, Château Layauga-Dubosc, is exceptional because of its age (dates back from 2008 when the Consulate General was not even established in Bengaluru); a Saint Julien, Château Peymartin, of 2011 (the year when the Consulate General was founded); a Pauillac, Château Pontet-Canet, one of the famous "Grand Cru Classéen 1855", thus bearing witness to the heritage and grandeur of wine-making in France. Vanbaelinghem explained, "Of course, we are looking forward to seeing all guests in person very soon and organising the French Consulate's 10th anniversary party on our rooftop, but the idea was not to lose touch and to share the pleasure of wine and food through conversation".

We are looking forward to seeing all guests in person very soon and organising the French Consulate's 10th anniversary party on our rooftop, but the idea was not to lose touch and to share the pleasure of wine and food through conversation — **Dr Marjorie Vanbaelinghem,** Consul General of France

SMARTADS

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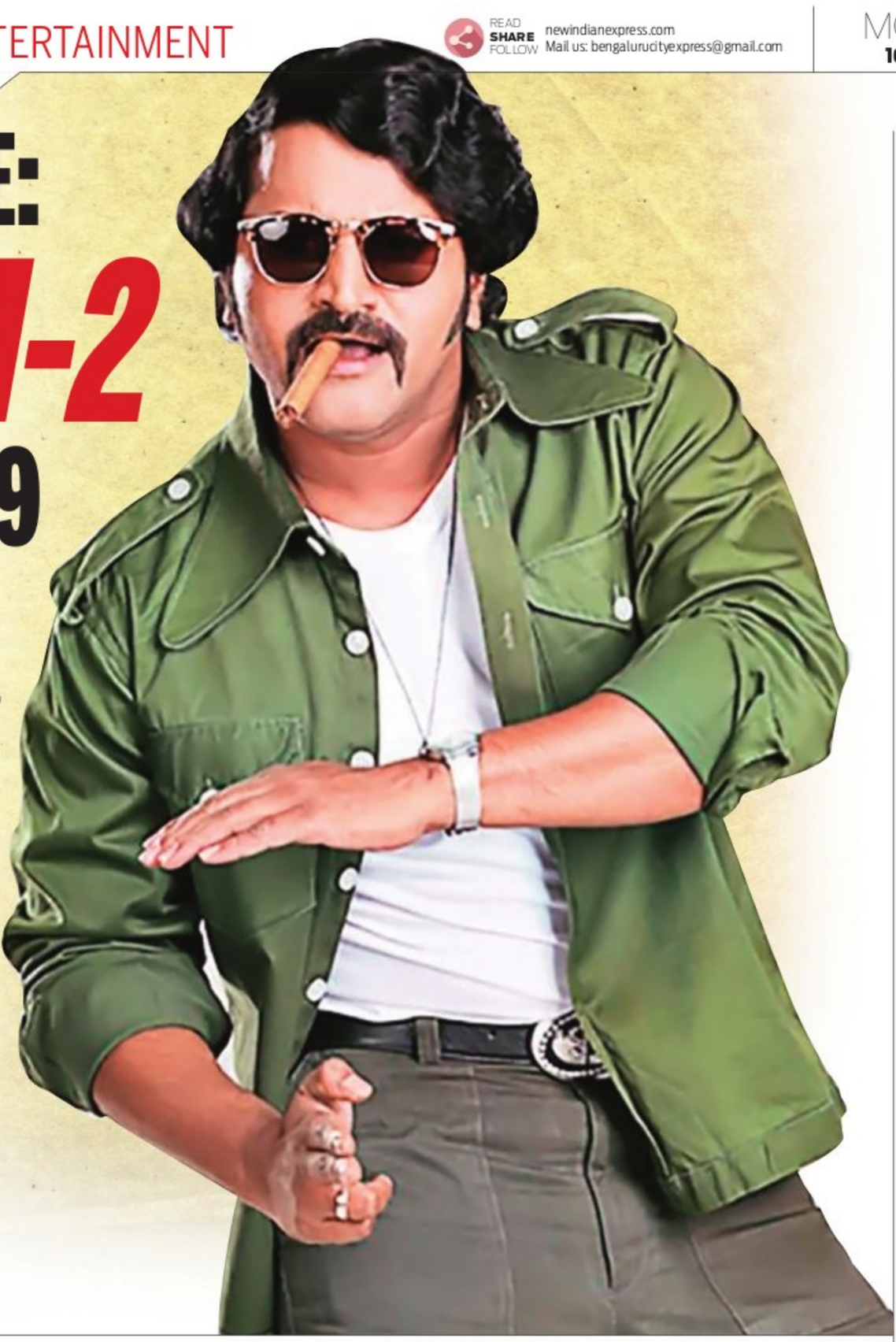
SAME DATE, SAME TIME: BELL BOTTOM-2 MUHURATH ON JAN 29

Incidentally, work on the first part began on the same date in 2018. This second part of the film, directed by Jayatheertha and starring Rishab Shetty and Haripriya, has writer TK Dayanand scripting the story



A Sharadhaa

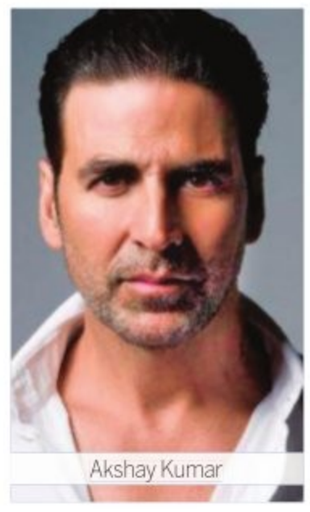
The success of crime comedy drama *Bell Bottom*, which had a gripping story with elements of humour, has led to the making of the sequel. According to writer TK Dayanand, part 2 will be a bigger canvas. "This time the story will bring in the flavour of pure English Bond series, something that the audience had loved watching in Sean Connery kind of movies. In Kannada, Detective Diwakar played by **Rishab Shetty** will bring out a local flavour," says the writer, who like in part one, has based the sequel too in the 1980s.

According to director Jayatheertha, the film produced by Santhosh Kumar KC under the banner Golden Horse Cinema, will retain the entire technical crew – music director Ajaneesh B Loknath, DOP Aravind Kashyap and actors Rishab, Haripriya, Achyuth Kumar, Yogaraj Bhat and Pramod Shetty. It will also have new additions which the team is in the process of finalising.

Interestingly, the team, which plans to commence shooting for the sequel early next year will host the muhurath on January 29, 2021. This is the same date that the first part of *Bell Bottom* was launched in 2018. The team hopes to go with the same release date – February 15 in 2022 provided things go as per plan. For Rishab, who is currently busy with his acting assignment *Harikathe Alla Girikathe*, directed by Giri Krishna, this will be his next project.

> **This time the story will bring in the flavour of pure English Bond series, something that the audience had loved watching in Sean Connery kind of movies. In Kannada, Detective Diwakar played by Rishab Shetty will bring out a local flavour**
>
> — **TK Dayanand,** writer

Akshay Kumar announces new film titled *Ram Setu*



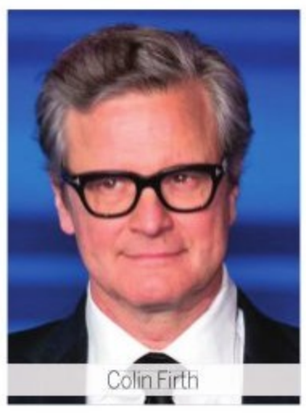
Akshay Kumar

CE Features

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar announced his new project, titled *Ram Setu*, on the festive occasion of Deepavali. The film will be directed by Abhishek Sharma, whose new comedy, *Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari*, becomes the first Bollywood release this weekend since the lockdown.

Akshay shared two posters of the project, one in Hindi and the other in English. The English poster has the tagline, "Myth or Reality?" while the Hindi poster says, "*Sach ya kalpana*?" "This Deepawali, let us endeavor to keep alive the ideals of Ram in the consciousness of all Bharatiyas by building a bridge (setu) that will connect generations to come. Taking this mammoth task ahead, here is our humble attempt – #RamSetu. Wishing you & yours a very Happy Deepawali," he tweeted with the posters. Backed by Akshay's production house, the film promises to be an action-adventure drama that blends myth and reality. However, no further details are currently available.

Akshay's new film *Laxmii* had an OTT release this Deepavali. He recently wrapped up the spy thriller *Bell Bottom*, and is working on the period drama, *Prithviraj*. He will also wrap up Aanand L Rai's love story *Atrangi Re* this year before starting work on *Bachchan Pandey*. The actor's next release is Rohit Shetty's *Sooryavanshi*. He plays a cop battling terrorism in the film co-starring **Katrina Kaif**.



Colin Firth

Colin Firth, Gemma Arterton to star in period drama *Curtain Call*

CE Features

British stars Colin Firth and Gemma Arterton are teaming up for *Curtain Call*, a period drama set in 1930s London. It also stars veteran actor Simon Russell Beale, known for The Death of Stalin and Mary Queen of Scots and Paapa Essiedu of I May Destroy You fame.

The film is based on Anthony Quinn's novel of the same name, which revolves around a feared theatre critic named Jimmy Erskine (Beale), his loyal assistant, a newspaper owner who wants to get rid of the critic and an actress who has been devastated by the damaging theatrical reviews. The critic's determination to survive ensures that the other characters are caught in a web of blackmail, deceit and murder.

Anand Tucker, who has credits like the 2010 film *Leap Year* and 2015 drama series *Indian Summers*, is attached to direct the film. Patrick Marber adapted the script. *Curtain Call* will be produced by Mark Gordon Pictures and Fearless Minds.

Jolyon Symonds is producing under his Fearless Minds banner. Sony Pictures International Productions will co-produce and distribute the film in the UK, Australia, Ireland, and New Zealand.

Family Pack makers reveal fresh stills

A still from the film

CE Features

The shooting of *Family Pack*, bankrolled by Puneeth Rajkumar's PRK Productions, is almost 60 per cent complete. The makers have revealed fresh stills from the film starring Likith Shetty and Amrutha Iyengar on the occasion of Deepavali. Shooting for the comedy entertainer, directed by Arjun Kumar, was started on Sept. 21. The team will now resume the shooting in December. *Family Pack* is produced by Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar in association with Likith and Deshraj Rai. It is packed with a host of artistes, including Rangayana Raghu, who plays a major role, along with Sihi Kahi Chandru, Achyuth Kumar, Padmaja Rao, Sharmitha Gowda, Sadhu Kokila, Chandu Gowda, Shivaram, Nagabhushan, Raghu Gowda, Shruthi Sampath, and Krishna Hebbale. More actors are expected to join in the fourth schedule. The film will bring back director Arjun and actor-producer, Likith together for the second time, after *Sankashta Kara Ganapathi*.

Family Pack has dialogues written by Masti, while music has been composed by Gurukiran and cinematography is by Uday Leela.

Sylvester Stallone joins James Gunn's *The Suicide Squad*

Sylvester Stallone

CE Features

Hollywood action icon Sylvester Stallone has joined the cast of James Gunn's *The Suicide Squad*. The directed posted a picture on Instagram with Stallone, and the caption read, "Always love working with my friend @officialslystallone & our work today on #TheSuicideSquad was no exception. Despite Sly being an iconic movie star, most people still don't have any idea what an amazing actor this guy is."

Interestingly, Stallone also appeared in Gunn's *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2*, where he played the role of Stakar Ogord. Fans will also see Stallone as a superhero, in a more starring role, when *Samaritan* hits theaters next Summer.

The Suicide Squad is a follow-up to the popular 2016 DCEU film helmed by David Ayer, and it stars Margot Robbie, Will Smith, Jaret Leto, Idris Elba, Joel Kinnaman, and Taika Waititi. Gunn's screenplay is based on the comic book by John Ostrander. *The Suicide Squad* is currently scheduled to release on August 6 next year.

Chris Pratt to reprise Star-Lord role in *Thor: Love and Thunder*

CE Features

Actor Chris Pratt is set to make an appearance as his *Guardians of the Galaxy* character Star-Lord in the MCUs fourth Thor film. Titled *Thor: Love and Thunder*, the movie directed by Taikia Waititi features Chris Hemsworth in the lead as the titular superhero alongside Natalie Portman, who returns as Jane Foster to the franchise for the first time since 2013's *Thor: The Dark World*, Tessa Thompson as Valkyrie and Christian Bale in a mysterious role.

According to Variety, the plot details of the film have been kept under wraps. Waititi had revealed in July that the script of *Thor: Love and Thunder* is 'insane and romantic'. The film was initially scheduled to start shooting in August in Australia, but the production got delayed due to the coronavirus outbreak, forcing the makers to push the release date from November 2021 to February 2022.